"Gripping noir mystery." – PopOptiq.com

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

BENDIS
DEODATO

THE WAR MACHINES

MARVEL

INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN

STARK

FRIDAY'S LOG:

RECENTLY COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS:

- TEAM UP WITH "REFORMED" DOCTOR DOOM TO NEUTRALIZE MADAME MASQUE AND HAND HER OVER TO S.H.I.E.L.D.
- ASK GENIUS BIOCHEMICAL ENGINEER AMARA PERERA ON ANOTHER DATE.

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- FIND OUT "WHAT THE %$&# IS UP" WITH THE BIOHACK NINJAS THAT WERE TRAILING MADAME MASQUE.

BILLIONAIRE PLAYBOY AND GENIUS INDUSTRIALIST TONY STARK WAS KIDNAPPED DURING A ROUTINE WEAPONS TEST. HIS CAPTORS ATTEMPTED TO FORCE HIM TO BUILD A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION. INSTEAD HE CREATED A POWERED SUIT OF ARMOR THAT SAVED HIS LIFE. FROM THAT DAY ON, HE USED THE SUIT TO PROTECT THE WORLD AS THE...

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

THE WAR MACHINES

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MIKE DEODATO
ARTIST

FRANK MARTIN
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

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DEAN WHITE (#7) &
RAIN BEREDO (#11)
AND
KATE NIEMCZYK (#10)
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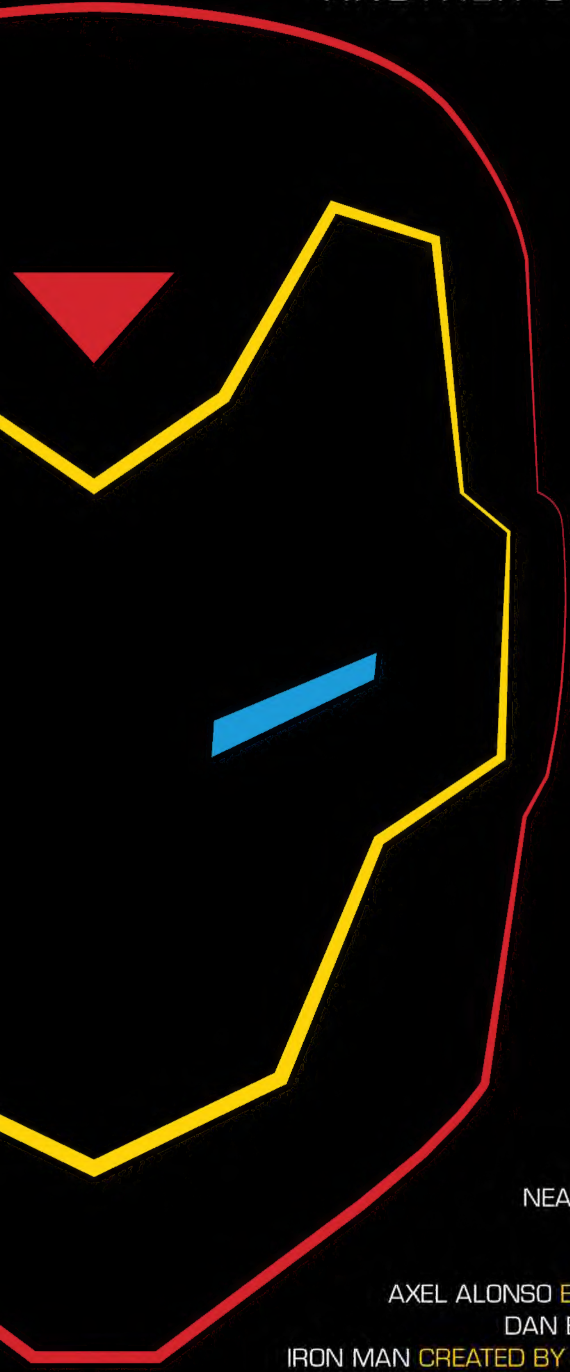
BENDIS • DEODATO • MARTIN

#6

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION



Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger **IRON MAN.**

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MIKE DEODATO & FRANK MARTIN COVER ARTISTS
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ALANNA SMITH ASSISTANT EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT WITH KATIE KUBERT EDITORS
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY

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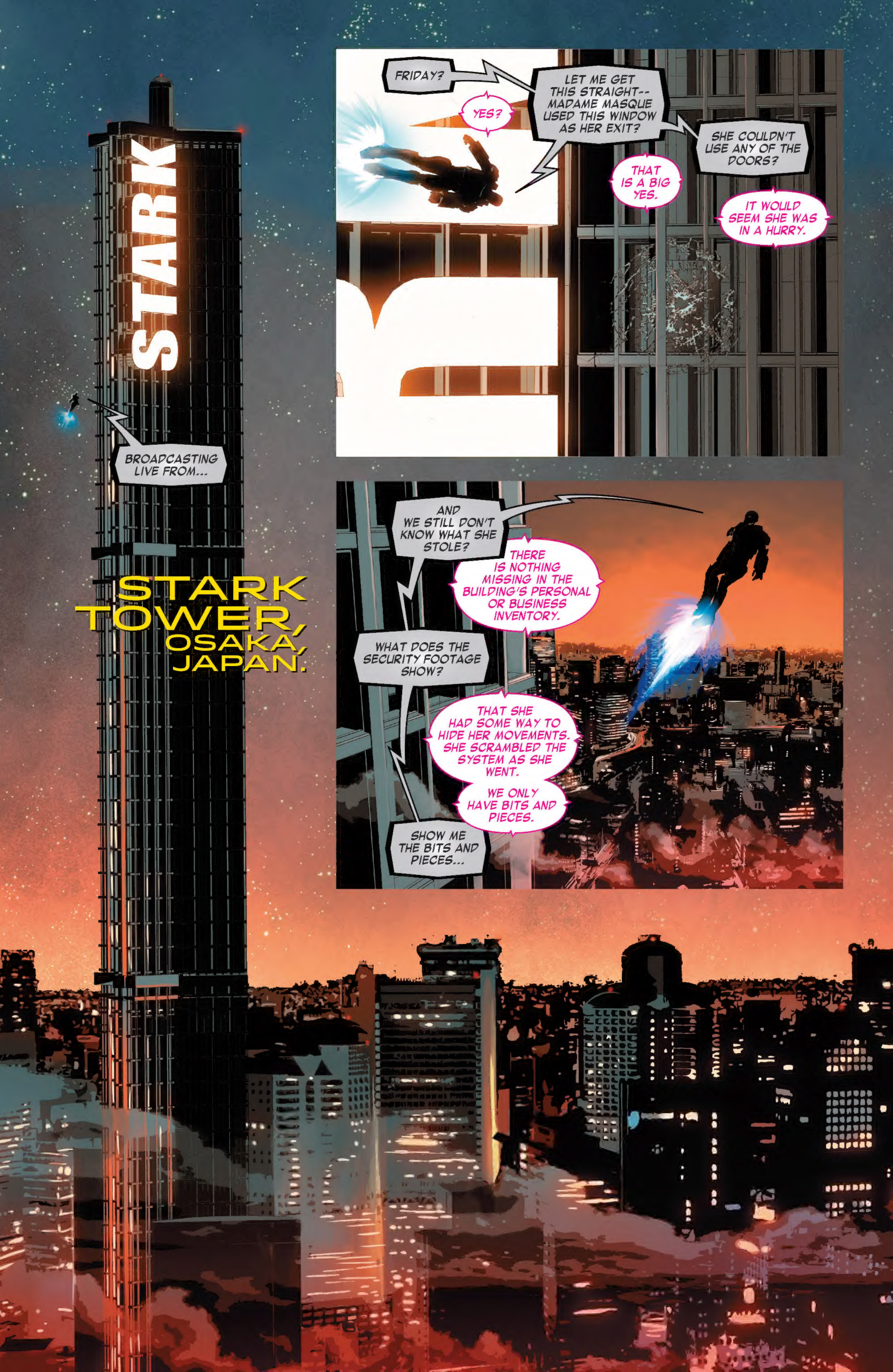
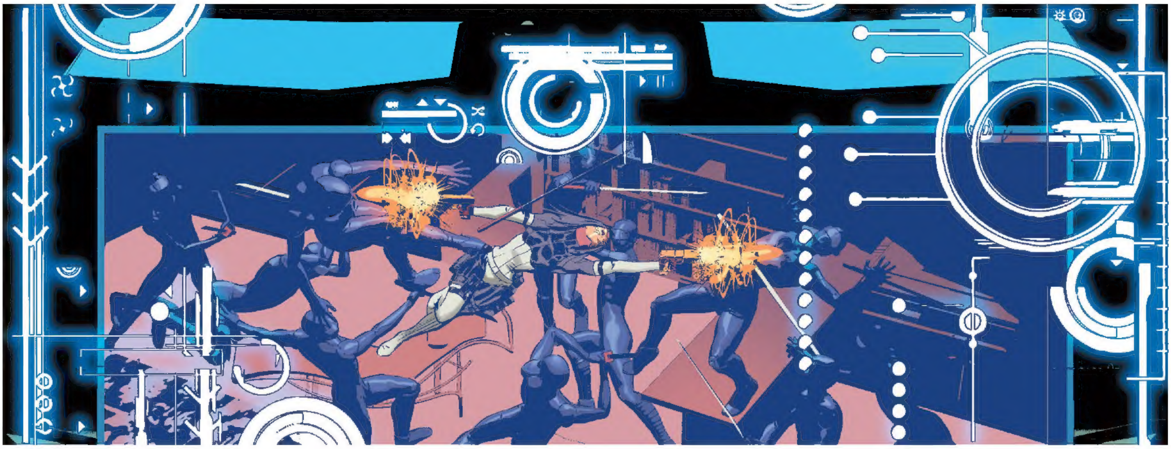
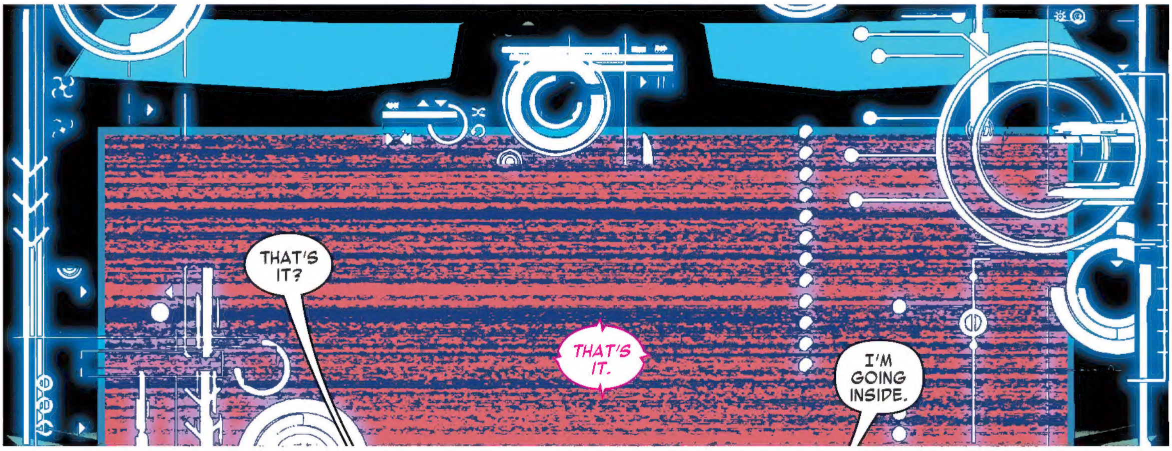
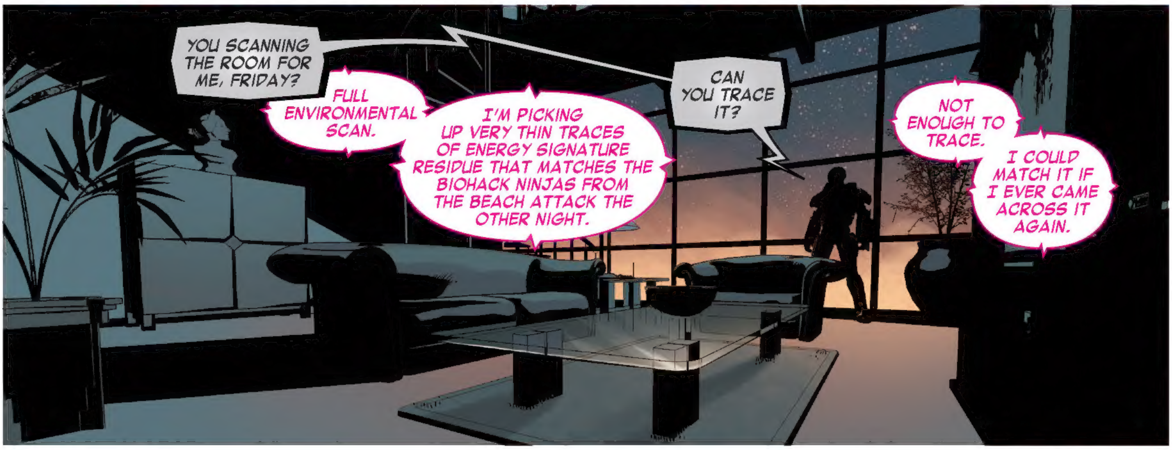
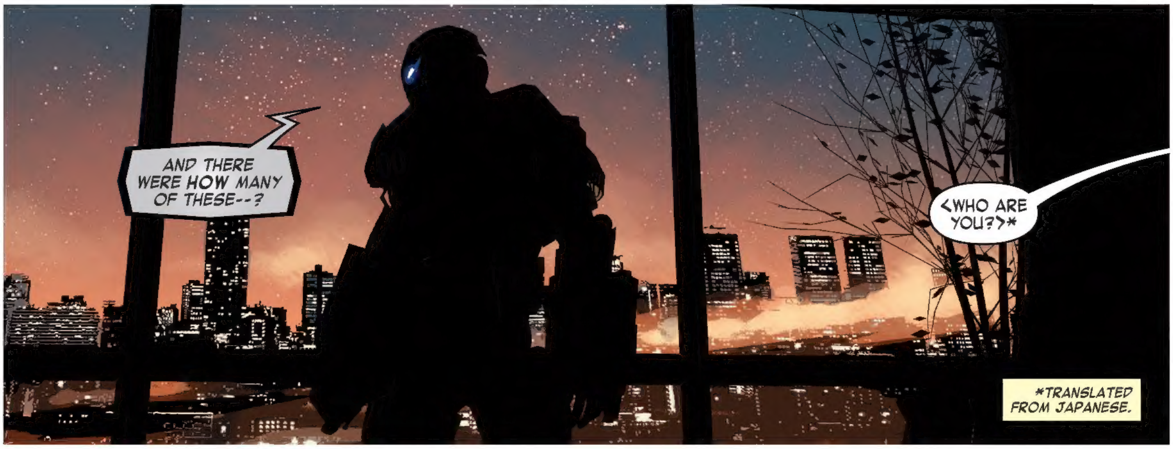
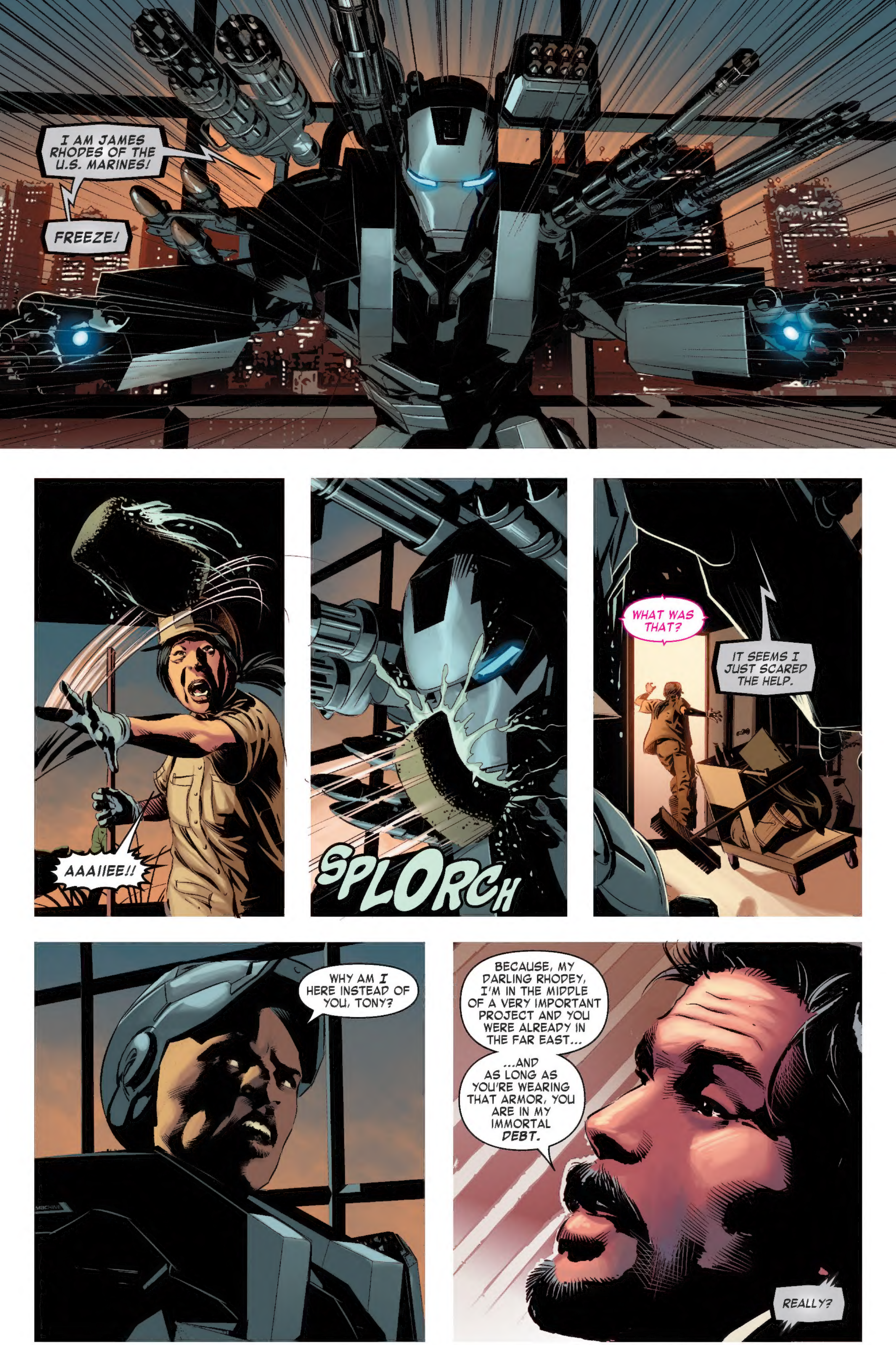

STARK
BROADCASTING LIVE FROM...
STARK TOWER, OSAKA, JAPAN.
FRIDAY?
YES?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT-- MADAME MASQUE USED THIS WINDOW AS HER EXIT?
THAT IS A BIG YES.
SHE COULDN'T USE ANY OF THE DOORS?
IT WOULD SEEM SHE WAS IN A HURRY.
AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE STOLE?
THERE IS NOTHING MISSING IN THE BUILDING'S PERSONAL OR BUSINESS INVENTORY.
WHAT DOES THE SECURITY FOOTAGE SHOW?
THAT SHE HAD SOME WAY TO HIDE HER MOVEMENTS. SHE SCRAMBLED THE SYSTEM AS SHE WENT.
WE ONLY HAVE BITS AND PIECES.
SHOW ME THE BITS AND PIECES...

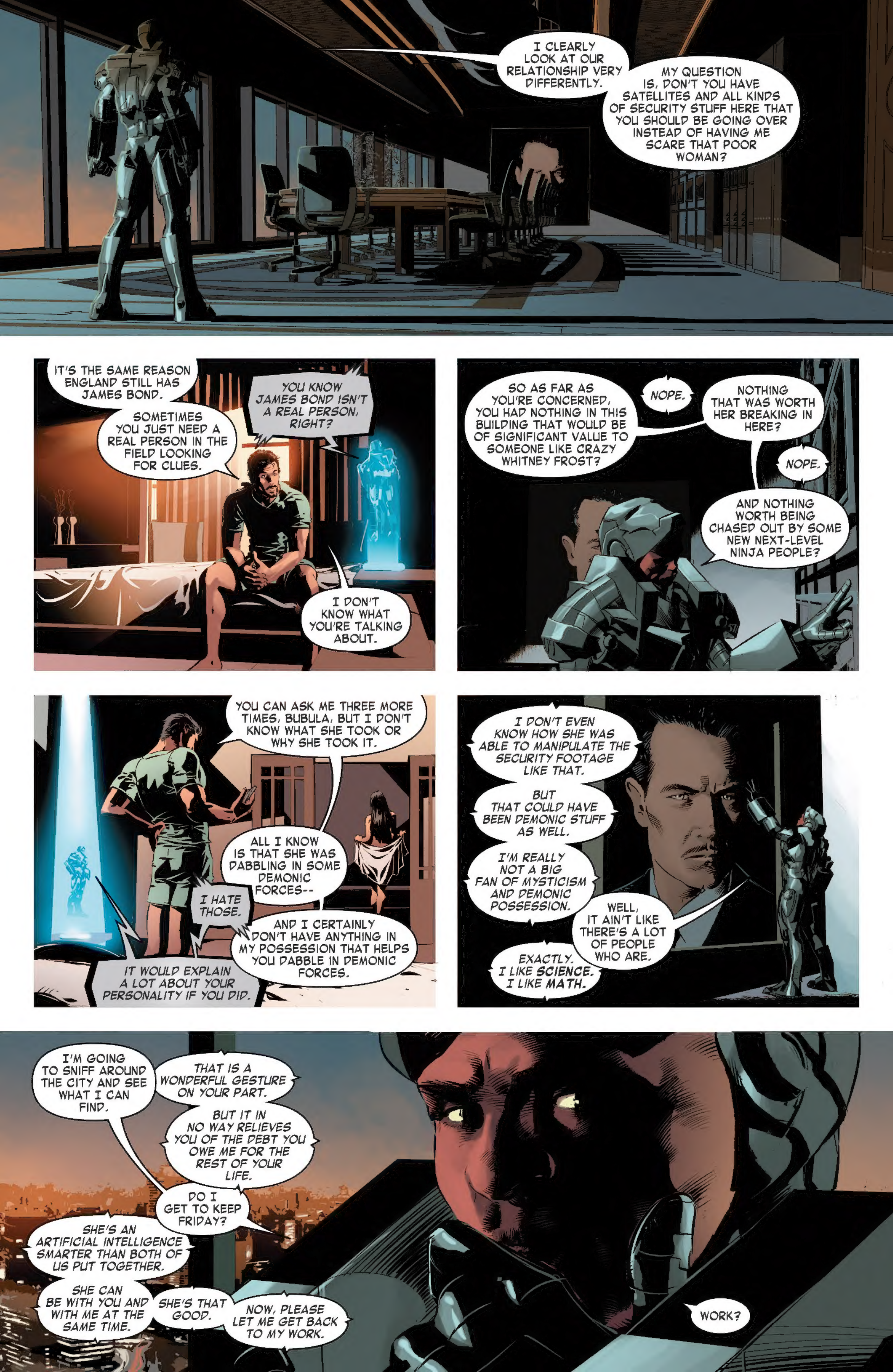


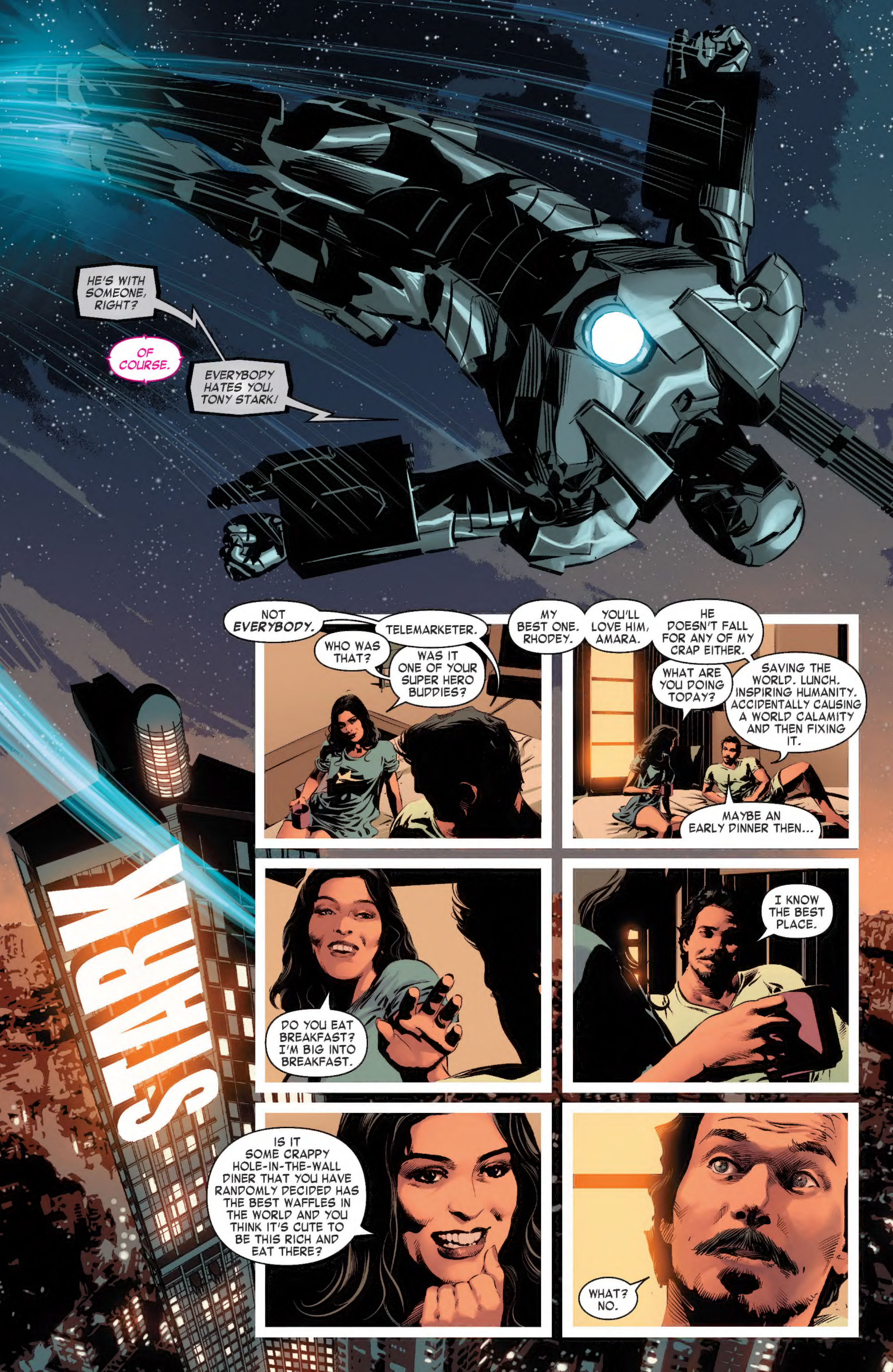

THAT'S IT?
THAT'S IT.
I'M GOING INSIDE.

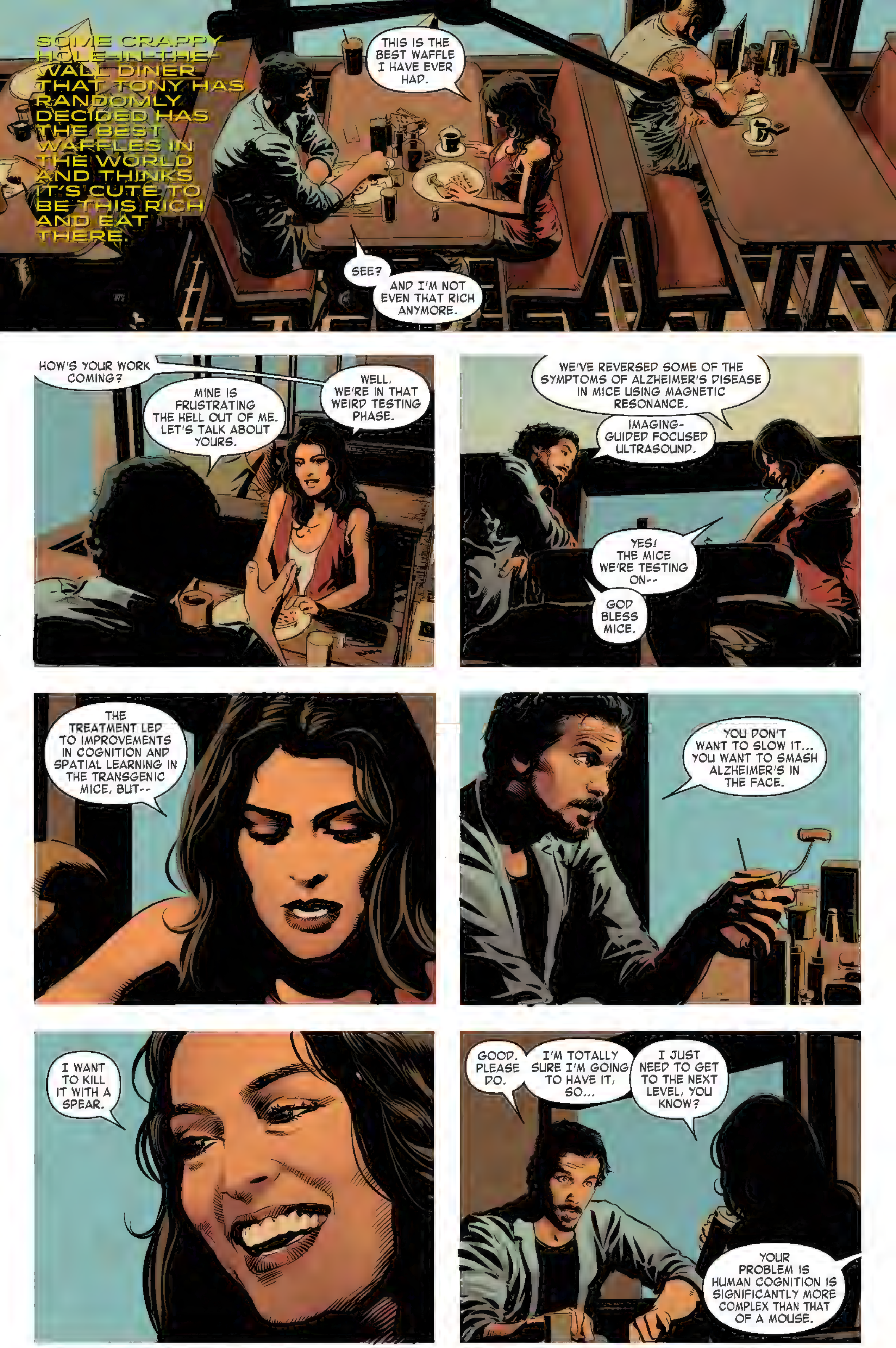

YOU SCANNING THE ROOM FOR ME, FRIDAY?
FULL ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN.
I'M PICKING UP VERY THIN TRACES OF ENERGY SIGNATURE RESIDUE THAT MATCHES THE BIOHACK NINJAS FROM THE BEACH ATTACK THE OTHER NIGHT.
CAN YOU TRACE IT?
NOT ENOUGH TO TRACE.
I COULD MATCH IT IF I EVER CAME ACROSS IT AGAIN.

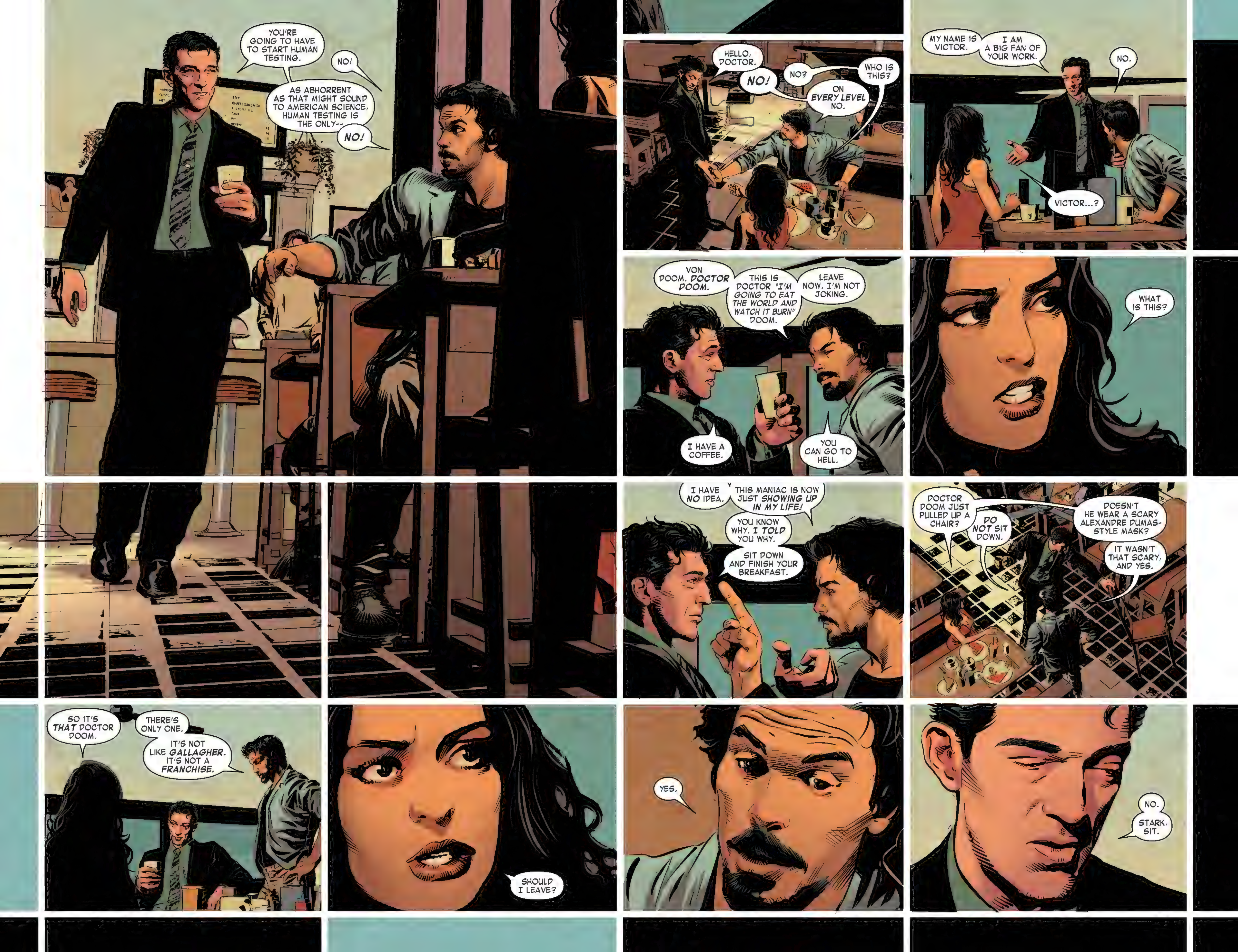

AND THERE WERE HOW MANY OF THESE--?
<WHO ARE YOU?>*
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.

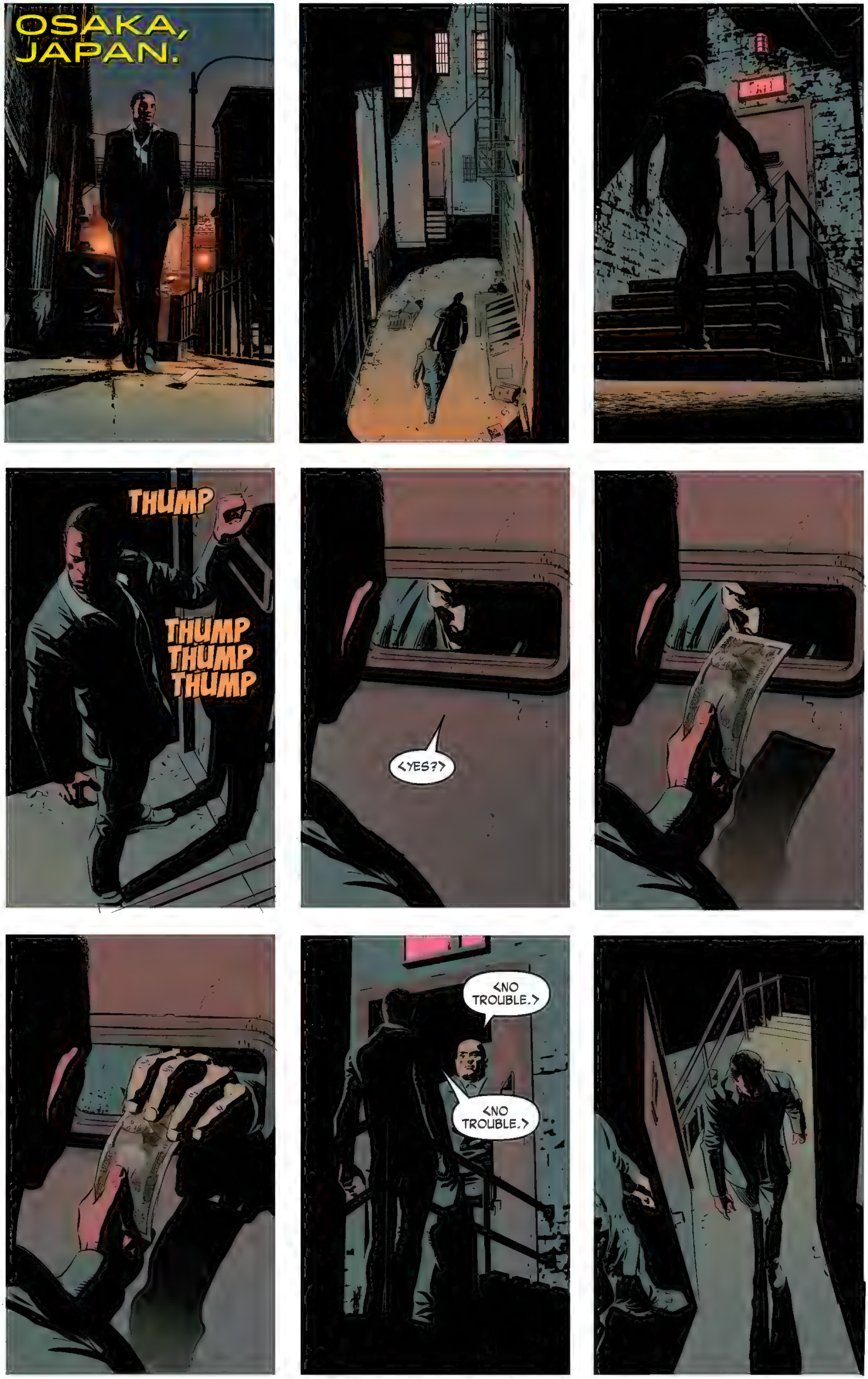

I AM JAMES RHODES OF THE U.S. MARINES!
FREEZE!
AAAIIEE!!
SPLORCH
WHAT WAS THAT?
IT SEEMS I JUST SCARED THE HELP.
WHY AM I HERE INSTEAD OF YOU, TONY?
BECAUSE, MY DARLING RHODEY, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A VERY IMPORTANT PROJECT AND YOU WERE ALREADY IN THE FAR EAST...
...AND AS LONG AS YOU'RE WEARING THAT ARMOR, YOU ARE IN MY IMMORTAL DEBT.
REALLY?

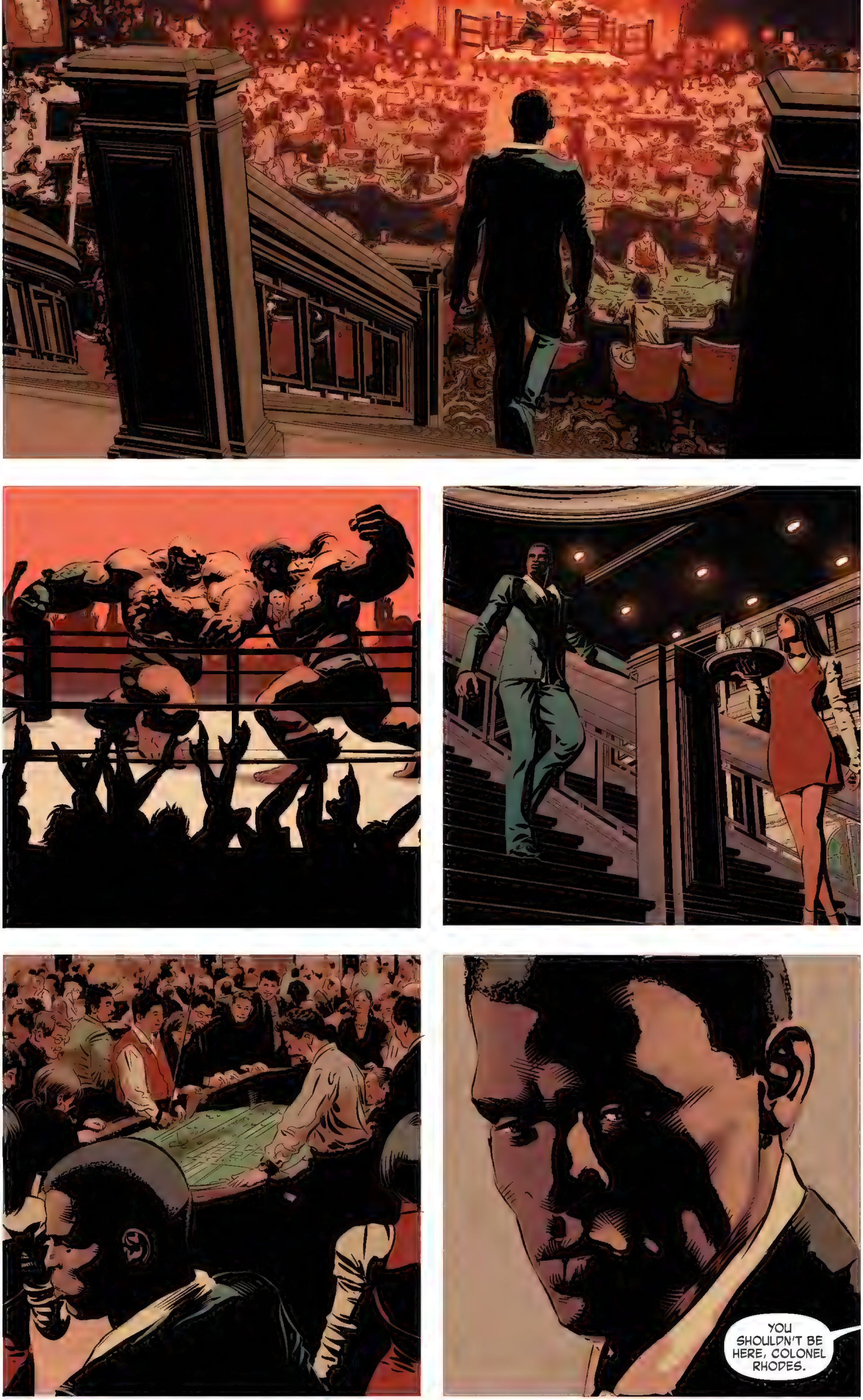

I CLEARLY LOOK AT OUR RELATIONSHIP VERY DIFFERENTLY.
MY QUESTION IS, DON'T YOU HAVE SATELLITES AND ALL KINDS OF SECURITY STUFF HERE THAT YOU SHOULD BE GOING OVER INSTEAD OF HAVING ME SCARE THAT POOR WOMAN?
IT'S THE SAME REASON ENGLAND STILL HAS JAMES BOND.
SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED A REAL PERSON IN THE FIELD LOOKING FOR CLUES.
YOU KNOW JAMES BOND ISN'T A REAL PERSON, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
SO AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED, YOU HAD NOTHING IN THIS BUILDING THAT WOULD BE OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO SOMEONE LIKE CRAZY WHITNEY FROST?
NOPE.
NOTHING THAT WAS WORTH HER BREAKING IN HERE?
NOPE.
AND NOTHING WORTH BEING CHASED OUT BY SOME NEW NEXT-LEVEL NINJA PEOPLE?
YOU CAN ASK ME THREE MORE TIMES, BUBULA, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE TOOK OR WHY SHE TOOK IT.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT SHE WAS DABBLING IN SOME DEMONIC FORCES--
I HATE THOSE.
AND I CERTAINLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN MY POSSESSION THAT HELPS YOU DABBLE IN DEMONIC FORCES.
IT WOULD EXPLAIN A LOT ABOUT YOUR PERSONALITY IF YOU DID.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW SHE WAS ABLE TO MANIPULATE THE SECURITY FOOTAGE LIKE THAT.
BUT THAT COULD HAVE BEEN DEMONIC STUFF AS WELL.
I'M REALLY NOT A BIG FAN OF MYSTICISM AND DEMONIC POSSESSION.
WELL, IT AIN'T LIKE THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE.
*EXACTLY. I LIKE **SCIENCE**. I LIKE **MATH**.*
I'M GOING TO SNIFF AROUND THE CITY AND SEE WHAT I CAN FIND.
THAT IS A WONDERFUL GESTURE ON YOUR PART.
BUT IT IN NO WAY RELIEVES YOU OF THE DEBT YOU OWE ME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
DO I GET TO KEEP FRIDAY?
SHE'S AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SMARTER THAN BOTH OF US PUT TOGETHER.
SHE CAN BE WITH YOU AND WITH ME AT THE SAME TIME.
SHE'S THAT GOOD.
NOW, PLEASE LET ME GET BACK TO MY WORK.
WORK?

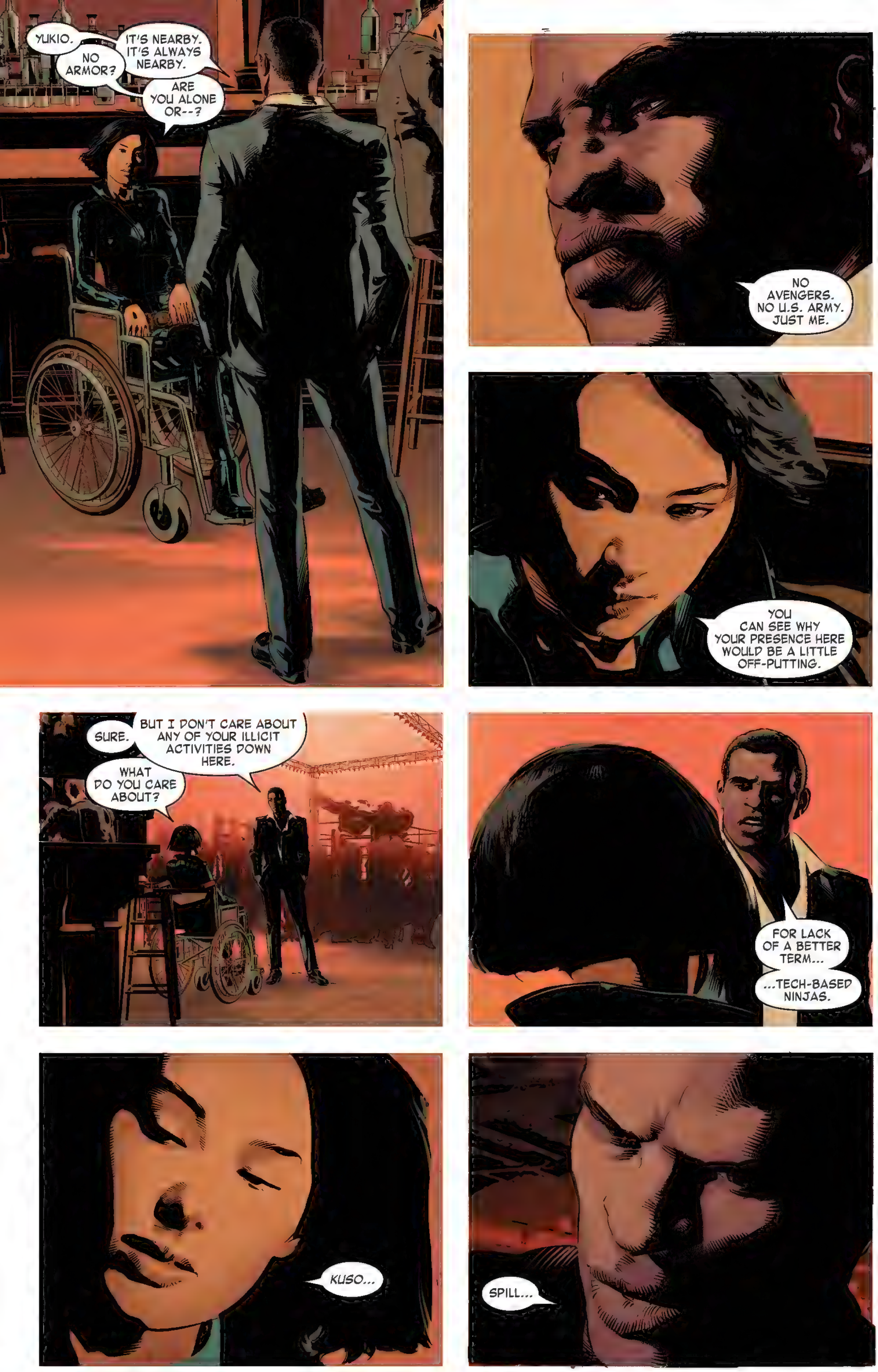

HE'S WITH SOMEONE, RIGHT?
OF COURSE.
EVERYBODY HATES YOU, TONY STARK!
STARK
NOT *EVERYBODY*.
WHO WAS THAT?
TELEMARKETER.
WAS IT ONE OF YOUR SUPER HERO BUDDIES?
MY BEST ONE. RHODEY.
YOU'LL LOVE HIM, AMARA.
HE DOESN'T FALL FOR ANY OF MY CRAP EITHER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TODAY?
SAVING THE WORLD. LUNCH. INSPIRING HUMANITY. ACCIDENTALLY CAUSING A WORLD CALAMITY AND THEN FIXING IT.
MAYBE AN EARLY DINNER THEN...
DO YOU EAT BREAKFAST? I'M BIG INTO BREAKFAST.
I KNOW THE BEST PLACE.
IS IT SOME CRAPPY HOLE-IN-THE-WALL DINER THAT YOU HAVE RANDOMLY DECIDED HAS THE BEST WAFFLES IN THE WORLD AND YOU THINK IT'S CUTE TO BE THIS RICH AND EAT THERE?
WHAT? NO.

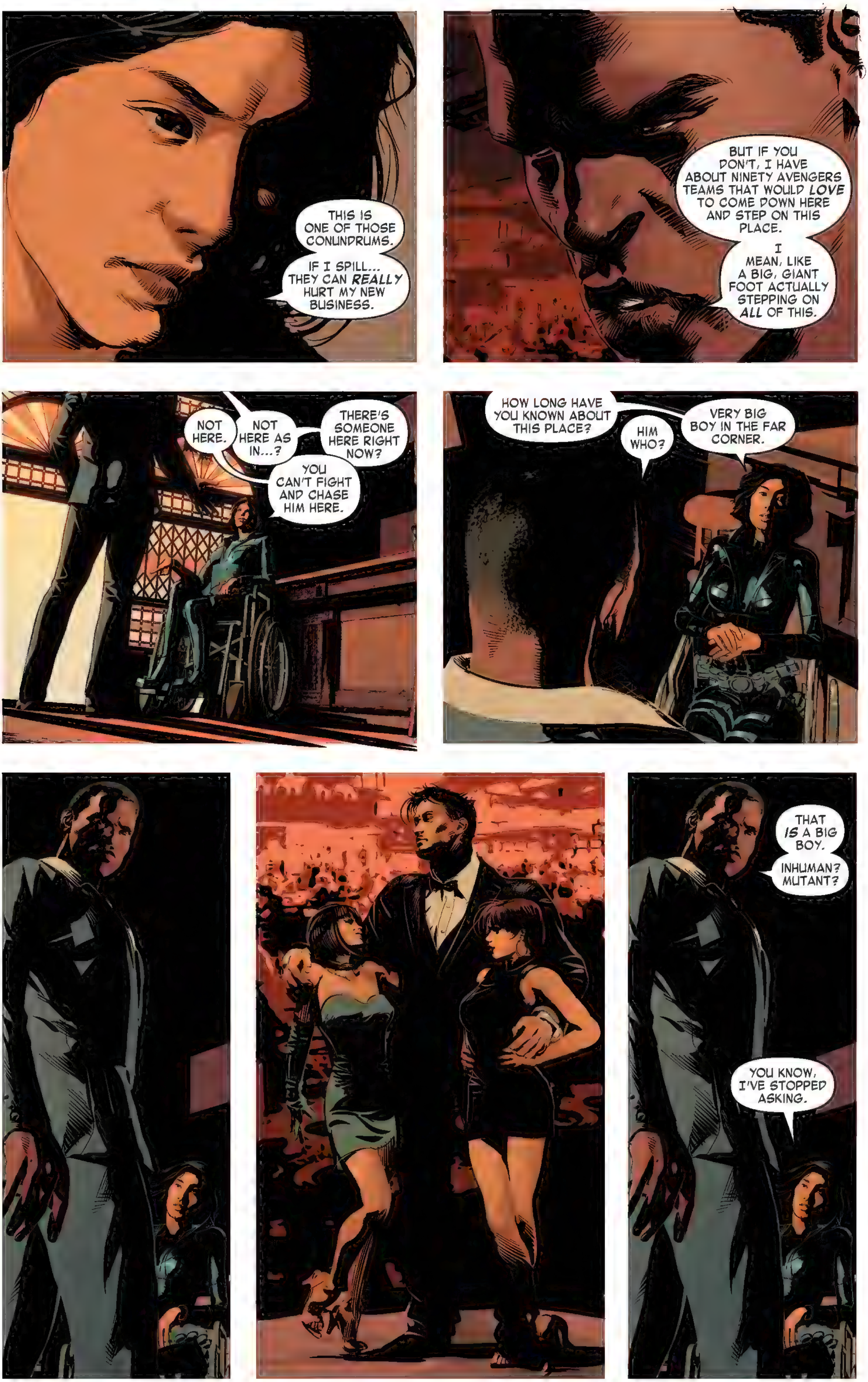

SOME CRAPPY HOLE-IN-THE-WALL DINER THAT TONY HAS RANDOMLY DECIDED HAS THE BEST WAFFLES IN THE WORLD AND THINKS IT'S CUTE TO BE THIS RICH AND EAT THERE.
THIS IS THE BEST WAFFLE I HAVE EVER HAD.
SEE?
AND I'M NOT EVEN THAT RICH ANYMORE.
HOW'S YOUR WORK COMING?
MINE IS FRUSTRATING THE HELL OUT OF ME. LET'S TALK ABOUT YOURS.
WELL, WE'RE IN THAT WEIRD TESTING PHASE.
WE'VE REVERSED SOME OF THE SYMPTOMS OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN MICE USING MAGNETIC RESONANCE.
IMAGING-GUIDED FOCUSED ULTRASOUND.
YES! THE MICE WE'RE TESTING ON--
GOD BLESS MICE.
THE TREATMENT LED TO IMPROVEMENTS IN COGNITION AND SPATIAL LEARNING IN THE TRANSGENIC MICE, BUT--
YOU DON'T WANT TO SLOW IT... YOU WANT TO SMASH ALZHEIMER'S IN THE FACE.
I WANT TO KILL IT WITH A SPEAR.
GOOD. PLEASE DO.
I'M TOTALLY SURE I'M GOING TO HAVE IT, SO...
I JUST NEED TO GET TO THE NEXT LEVEL, YOU KNOW?
YOUR PROBLEM IS HUMAN COGNITION IS SIGNIFICANTLY MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT OF A MOUSE.

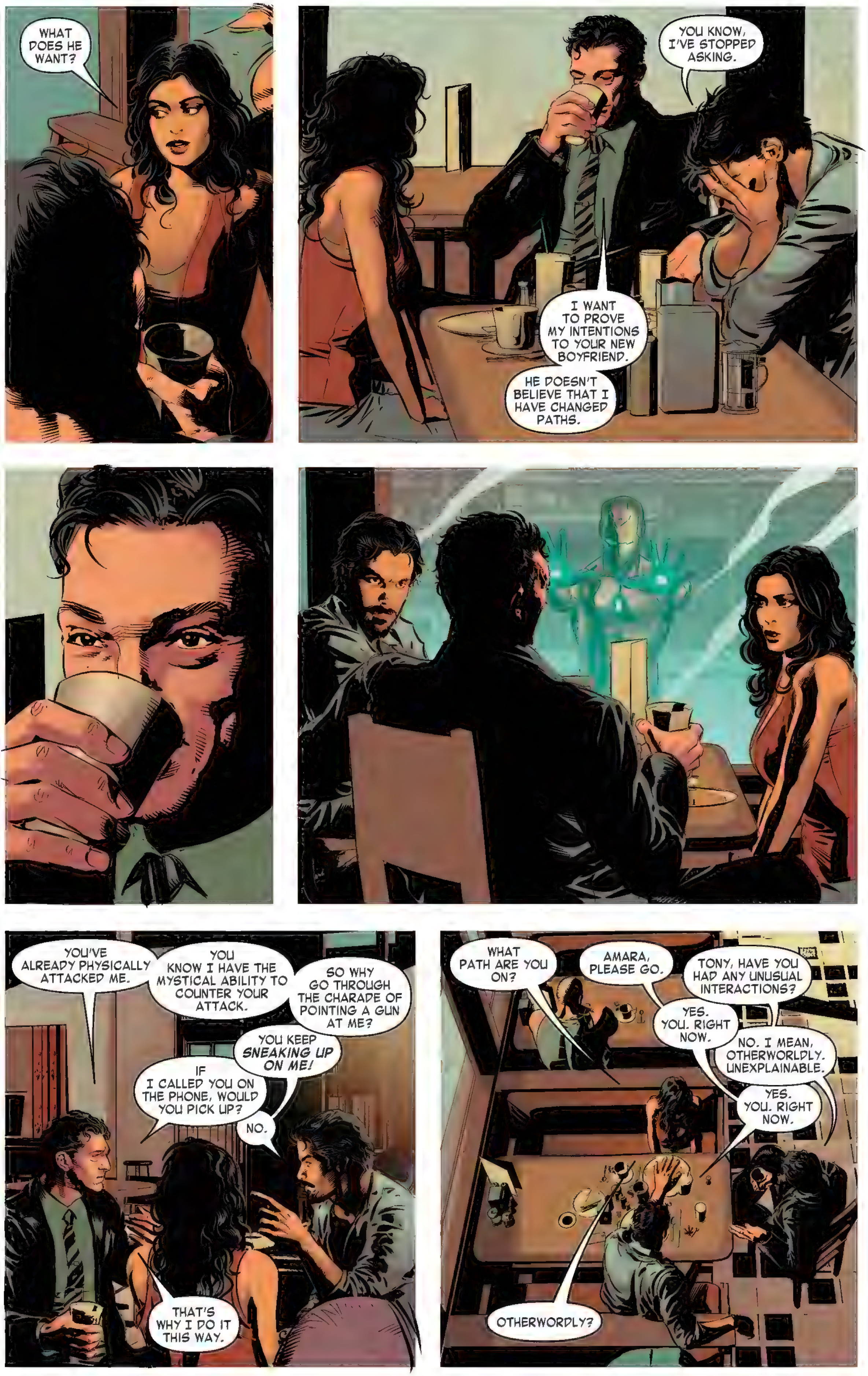

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO START HUMAN TESTING.
NO!
AS ABHORRENT AS THAT MIGHT SOUND TO AMERICAN SCIENCE, HUMAN TESTING IS THE ONLY--
NO!
HELLO, DOCTOR.
NO!
NO?
WHO IS THIS?
ON EVERY LEVEL NO.
MY NAME IS VICTOR.
I AM A BIG FAN OF YOUR WORK.
NO.
VICTOR...?
VON DOOM. DOCTOR DOOM.
THIS IS DOCTOR "I'M GOING TO EAT THE WORLD AND WATCH IT BURN" DOOM.
LEAVE NOW. I'M NOT JOKING.
I HAVE A COFFEE.
YOU CAN GO TO HELL.
WHAT IS THIS?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
THIS MANIAC IS NOW JUST SHOWING UP IN MY LIFE!
YOU KNOW WHY. I TOLD YOU WHY.
SIT DOWN AND FINISH YOUR BREAKFAST.
DOCTOR DOOM JUST PULLED UP A CHAIR?
DO NOT SIT DOWN.
DOESN'T HE WEAR A SCARY ALEXANDRE DUMAS-STYLE MASK?
IT WASN'T THAT SCARY, AND YES.
SO IT'S THAT DOCTOR DOOM.
THERE'S ONLY ONE.
IT'S NOT LIKE GALLAGHER. IT'S NOT A FRANCHISE.
SHOULD I LEAVE?
YES.
NO.
STARK, SIT.

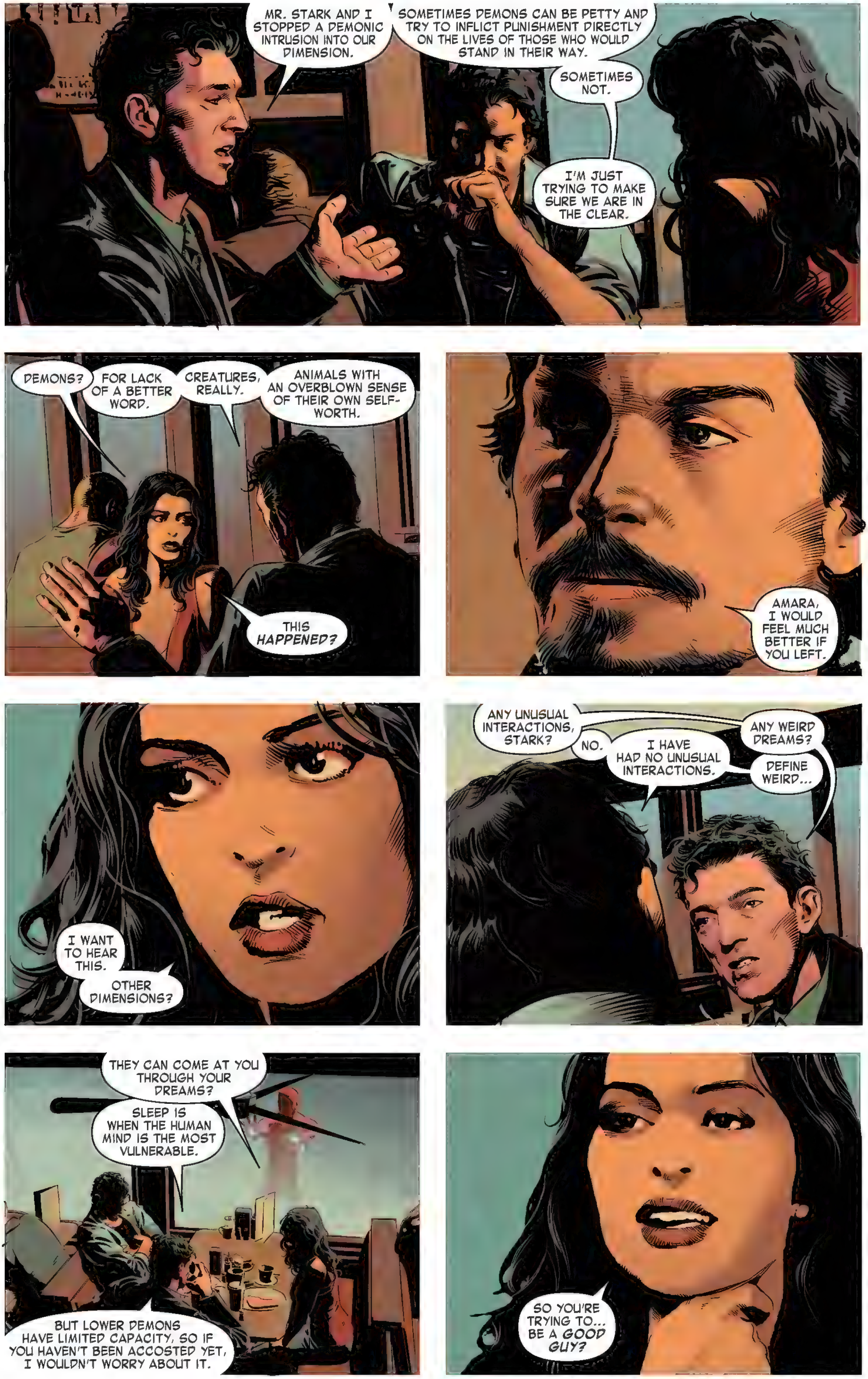

OSAKA, JAPAN.
THUMP
THUMP THUMP THUMP
<YES?>
<NO TROUBLE.>
<NO TROUBLE.>

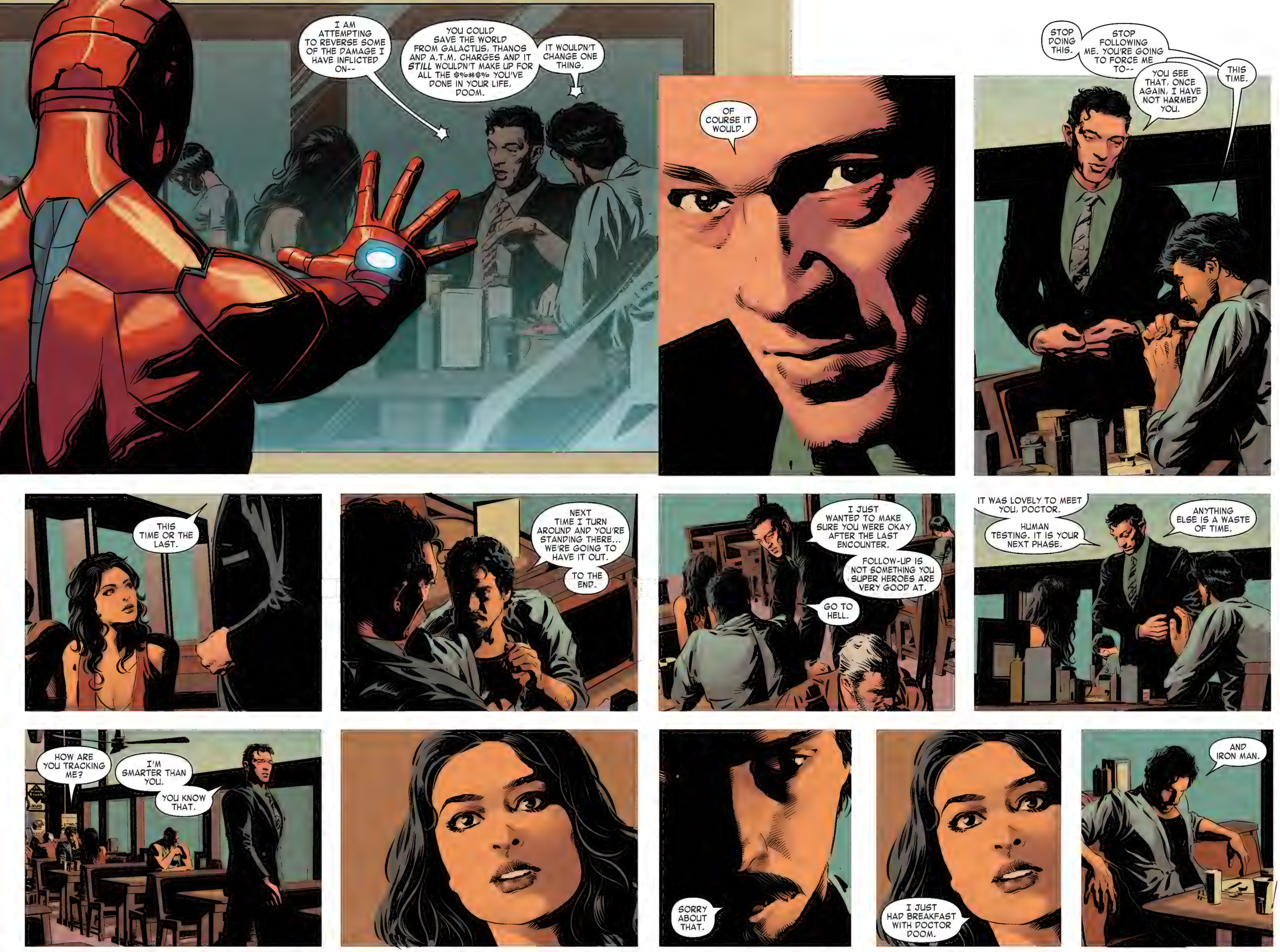

YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE, COLONEL RHODES.

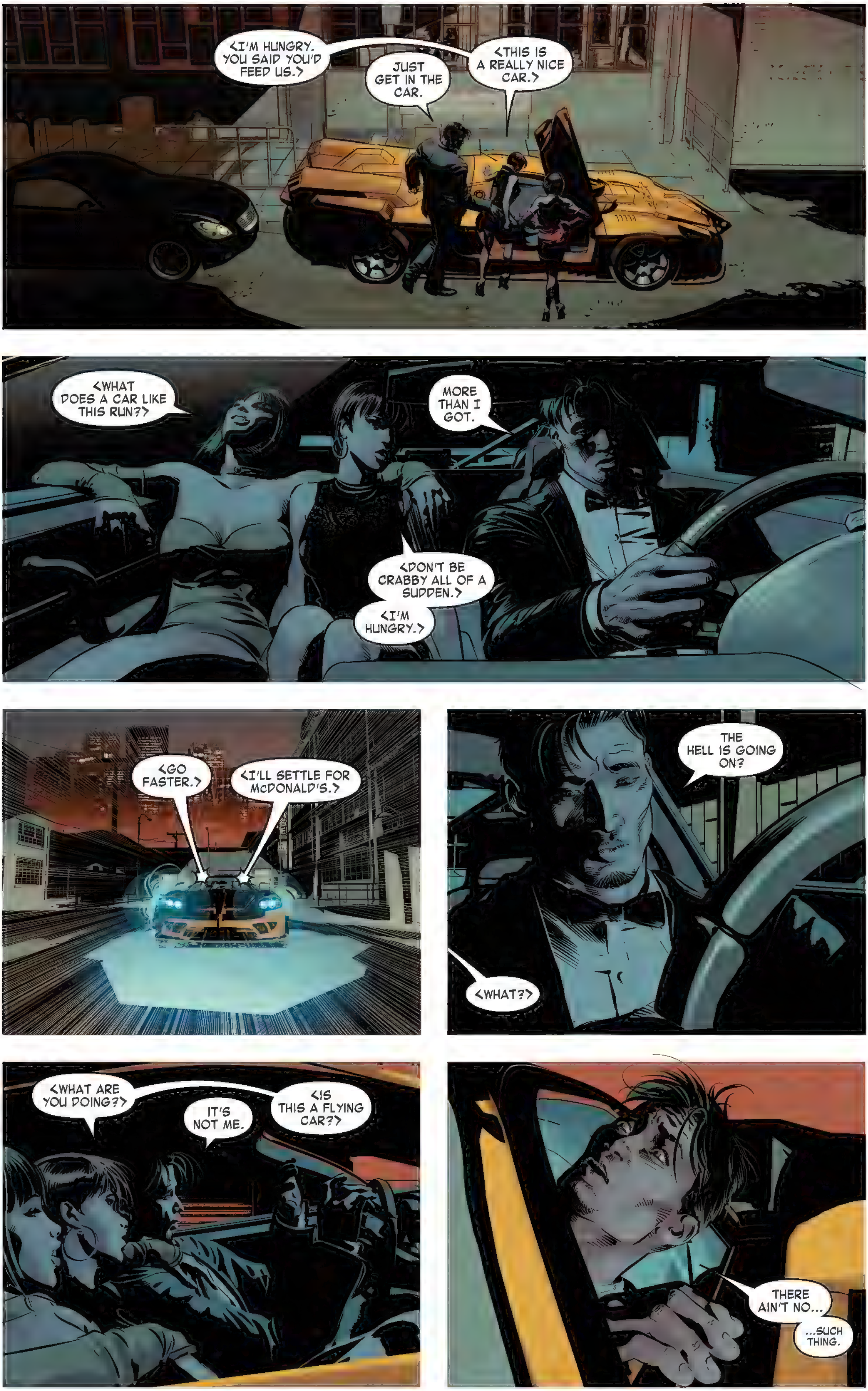

YUKIO.
NO ARMOR?
IT'S NEARBY. IT'S ALWAYS NEARBY.
ARE YOU ALONE OR--?
NO AVENGERS. NO U.S. ARMY. JUST ME.
YOU CAN SEE WHY YOUR PRESENCE HERE WOULD BE A LITTLE OFF-PUTTING.
SURE.
BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF YOUR ILLICIT ACTIVITIES DOWN HERE.
WHAT DO YOU CARE ABOUT?
FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM...
...TECH-BASED NINJAS.
KUSO...
SPILL...

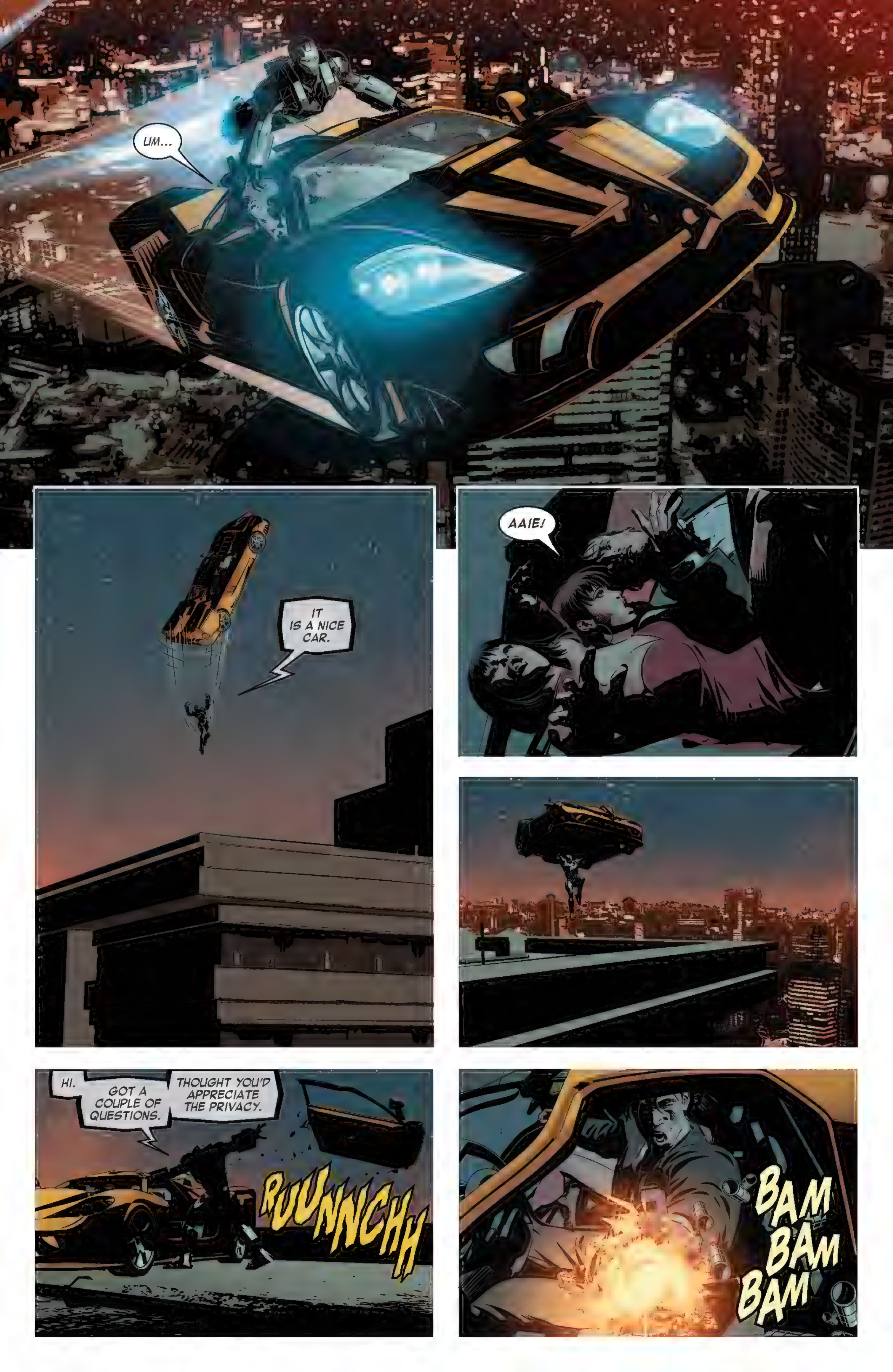

THIS IS ONE OF THOSE CONUNDRUMS.
IF I SPILL... THEY CAN *REALLY* HURT MY NEW BUSINESS.
BUT IF YOU DON'T, I HAVE ABOUT NINETY AVENGERS TEAMS THAT WOULD *LOVE* TO COME DOWN HERE AND STEP ON THIS PLACE.
I MEAN, LIKE A BIG, GIANT FOOT ACTUALLY STEPPING ON *ALL* OF THIS.
NOT HERE.
NOT HERE AS IN...?
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE RIGHT NOW?
YOU CAN'T FIGHT AND CHASE HIM HERE.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN ABOUT THIS PLACE?
HIM WHO?
VERY BIG BOY IN THE FAR CORNER.
THAT *IS* A BIG BOY.
INHUMAN? MUTANT?
YOU KNOW, I'VE STOPPED ASKING.

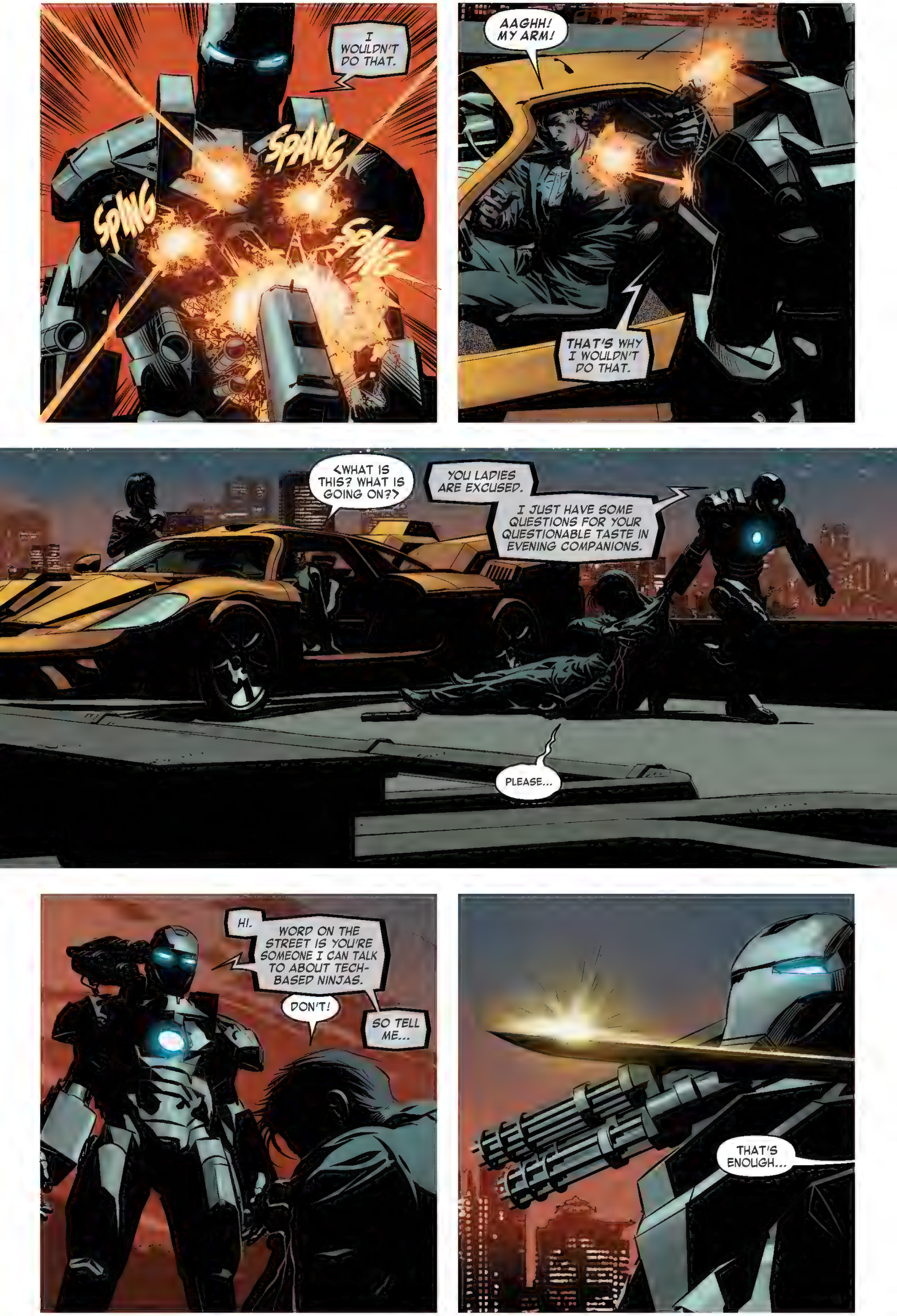

WHAT DOES HE WANT?
YOU KNOW, I'VE STOPPED ASKING.
I WANT TO PROVE MY INTENTIONS TO YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND.
HE DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT I HAVE CHANGED PATHS.
YOU'VE ALREADY PHYSICALLY ATTACKED ME.
YOU KNOW I HAVE THE MYSTICAL ABILITY TO COUNTER YOUR ATTACK.
SO WHY GO THROUGH THE CHARADE OF POINTING A GUN AT ME?
YOU KEEP *SNEAKING UP ON ME!*
IF I CALLED YOU ON THE PHONE, WOULD YOU PICK UP?
NO.
THAT'S WHY I DO IT THIS WAY.
WHAT PATH ARE YOU ON?
AMARA, PLEASE GO.
TONY, HAVE YOU HAD ANY UNUSUAL INTERACTIONS?
YES. YOU. RIGHT NOW.
NO. I MEAN, OTHERWORLDLY. UNEXPLAINABLE.
YES. YOU. RIGHT NOW.
OTHERWORDLY?

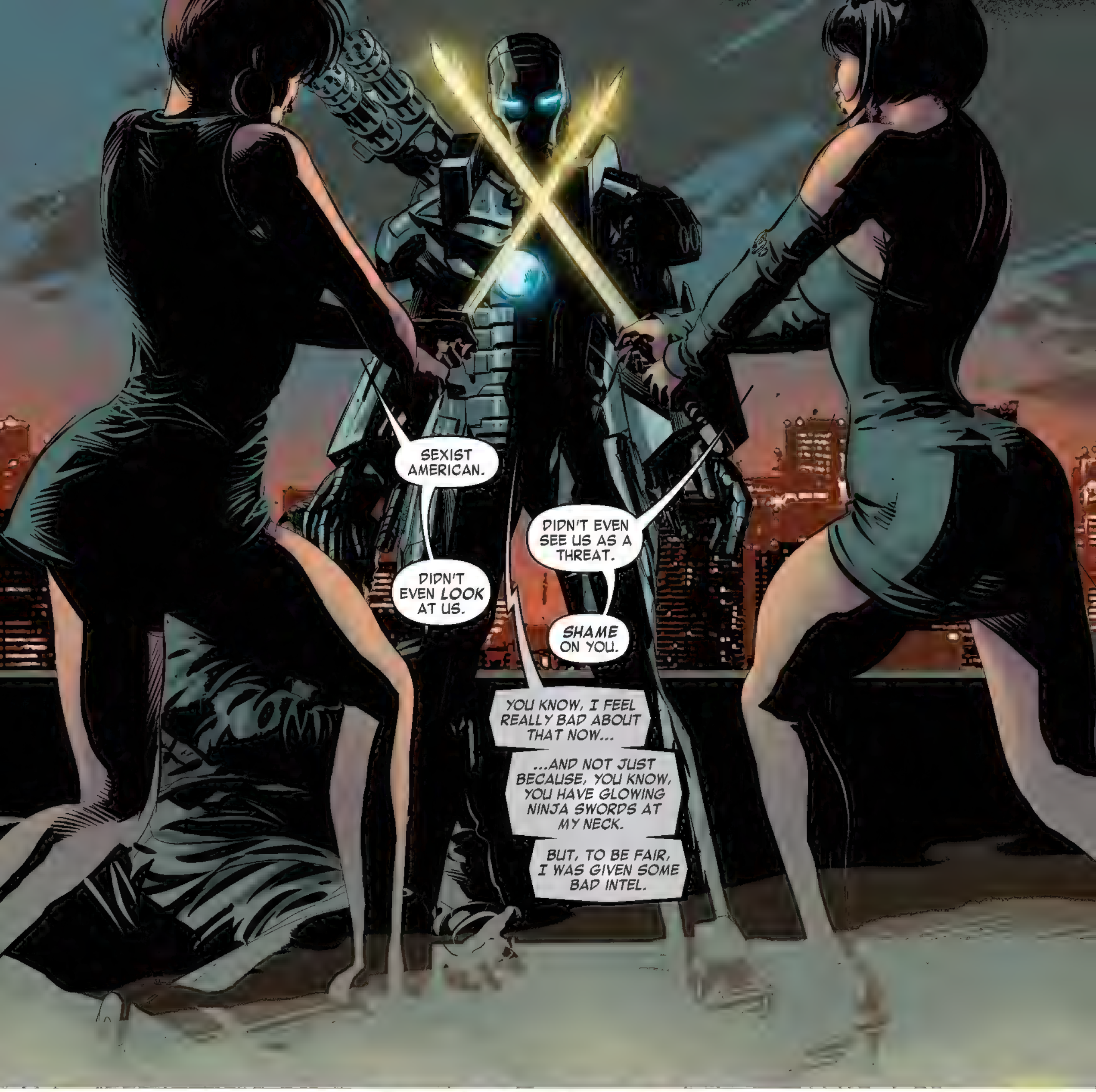

MR. STARK AND I STOPPED A DEMONIC INTRUSION INTO OUR DIMENSION.
SOMETIMES DEMONS CAN BE PETTY AND TRY TO INFLICT PUNISHMENT DIRECTLY ON THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO WOULD STAND IN THEIR WAY.
SOMETIMES NOT.
I'M JUST TRYING TO MAKE SURE WE ARE IN THE CLEAR.
DEMONS?
FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD.
CREATURES, REALLY.
ANIMALS WITH AN OVERBLOWN SENSE OF THEIR OWN SELF-WORTH.
THIS *HAPPENED?*
AMARA, I WOULD FEEL MUCH BETTER IF YOU LEFT.
I WANT TO HEAR THIS.
OTHER DIMENSIONS?
ANY UNUSUAL INTERACTIONS, STARK?
NO.
I HAVE HAD NO UNUSUAL INTERACTIONS.
ANY WEIRD DREAMS?
DEFINE WEIRD...
THEY CAN COME AT YOU THROUGH YOUR DREAMS?
SLEEP IS WHEN THE HUMAN MIND IS THE MOST VULNERABLE.
BUT LOWER DEMONS HAVE LIMITED CAPACITY, SO IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ACCOSTED YET, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO... BE A *GOOD GUY?*


I AM ATTEMPTING TO REVERSE SOME OF THE DAMAGE I HAVE INFLICTED ON--
YOU COULD SAVE THE WORLD FROM GALACTUS, THANOS AND A.T.M. CHARGES AND IT *STILL* WOULDN'T MAKE UP FOR ALL THE $%#$% YOU'VE DONE IN YOUR LIFE, DOOM.
IT WOULDN'T CHANGE ONE THING.
OF COURSE IT WOULD.
STOP DOING THIS.
STOP FOLLOWING ME. YOU'RE GOING TO FORCE ME TO--
THIS TIME.
YOU SEE THAT, ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE NOT HARMED YOU.
THIS TIME OR THE LAST.
NEXT TIME I TURN AROUND AND YOU'RE STANDING THERE... WE'RE GOING TO HAVE IT OUT.
TO THE END.
I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY AFTER THE LAST ENCOUNTER.
FOLLOW-UP IS NOT SOMETHING YOU SUPER HEROES ARE VERY GOOD AT.
GO TO HELL.
IT WAS LOVELY TO MEET YOU, DOCTOR.
HUMAN TESTING. IT IS YOUR NEXT PHASE.
ANYTHING ELSE IS A WASTE OF TIME.
HOW ARE YOU TRACKING ME?
I'M SMARTER THAN YOU.
YOU KNOW THAT.
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
I JUST HAD BREAKFAST WITH DOCTOR DOOM.
AND IRON MAN.


<I'M HUNGRY. YOU SAID YOU'D FEED US.>
JUST GET IN THE CAR.
<THIS IS A REALLY NICE CAR.>
<WHAT DOES A CAR LIKE THIS RUN?>
MORE THAN I GOT.
<DON'T BE CRABBY ALL OF A SUDDEN.>
<I'M HUNGRY.>
<GO FASTER.>
<I'LL SETTLE FOR McDONALD'S.>
THE HELL IS GOING ON?
<WHAT?>
<WHAT ARE YOU DOING?>
IT'S NOT ME.
<IS THIS A FLYING CAR?>
THERE AIN'T NO...
...SUCH THING.


UM...
IT IS A NICE CAR.
AAIE!
HI.
GOT A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.
THOUGHT YOU'D APPRECIATE THE PRIVACY.
RUUNNCHH
BAM BAM BAM


I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
SPANG
SPING
SPING
AAGHH! MY ARM!
THAT'S WHY I WOULDN'T DO THAT.
<WHAT IS THIS? WHAT IS GOING ON?>
YOU LADIES ARE EXCUSED.
I JUST HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOUR QUESTIONABLE TASTE IN EVENING COMPANIONS.
PLEASE...
HI.
WORD ON THE STREET IS YOU'RE SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO ABOUT TECH-BASED NINJAS.
DON'T!
SO TELL ME...
THAT'S ENOUGH...


SEXIST AMERICAN.
DIDN'T EVEN *LOOK* AT US.
DIDN'T EVEN SEE US AS A THREAT.
SHAME ON YOU.
YOU KNOW, I FEEL REALLY BAD ABOUT THAT NOW...
...AND NOT JUST BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, YOU HAVE GLOWING NINJA SWORDS AT MY NECK.
BUT, TO BE FAIR, I WAS GIVEN SOME BAD INTEL.

HE FEELS BAD.
I'M SURE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

Hello again, Shell-Heads! Assistant editor Alanna here! Hope you enjoyed our first issue with the incredible Mike Deodato and Frank Martin. Artists extraordinaire David Marquez and Justin Ponsor are off doing downright miraculous things on CIVIL WAR II, but fortunately they've left the book in very capable hands--and now we have WAR MACHINE! Yeah!

But enough about that--let's get to your letters!

To the brilliant team that created INVINCIBLE IRON MAN,

After enduring the several versions of IRON MAN that have sprung up recently (AXIS/ SUPERIOR IRON MAN, the hundreds of variations during SECRET WARS) it's a big sigh of relief to have old shell-head back. I am absolutely astounded by this new series with its unique and characteristic writing (as well as a dash of dry humor) and the gorgeous graphics that complement the brilliant storyline with its eccentric, urban style. What's even better is that the new armor is amazing. I was so close to being fooled by its simple, minimalistic design and thinking the simplicity had deteriorated its true strength and functionality but really, it's creative, effective and innovative.

As a 14-year-old kid with little to no engineering expertise whatsoever, I do have a small question.

I admire the armor's ability to shape itself into different weapons and change appearance, but are these components of the suit pre-programmed or can the suit simply materialize anything on the wearer's mind? Is it possible to somehow change neurological patterns into a physical image or idea? Can we actually materialize thought processes? I am aware that the suit's functions are based off the wearer's neurotransmissions to call upon the suit and activate certain functions but I'm still wondering if it's possible to just materialize your thoughts into the suit. Or did Tony specifically program an awesome samurai suit just for a really specific occasion in which he gets attacked by suit bearing ninjas? Is he psychic? Did he actually predict that armored ninjas are gonna fly out of nowhere and attack him so he created a samurai suit for the sake of iron-y? (haha what an amazing pun I'm hilarious). Is it possible to scientifically explain how the abstract concept of thought can be reproduced in a material format that is relative to the suit?

From an IRON MAN enthusiast and aspiring engineer,
Chassiva Zhafira

Wow, Chassiva, we should hire you as a tech advisor! Are you sure you're not the kid who reverse-engineered the Iron Man suit in issue #1? (I won't tell Tony if you are!)

The suit's made up of lots of tiny pieces that can shift and re-form however Tony needs them to (you can see it really clearly in issue #5). The suit is tapped into Tony's brain synapses, so he can reconfigure it using his thoughts--though he also has pre-programmed modes that Friday can activate for him.

And let's be real, Tony would totally program in a samurai mode just hoping he could use it someday.

Hello there,

Just wanted to say that this new Iron Man comic is really, really awesome!

I especially liked the fact that FRIDAY can disobey Tony's direct orders ("No.") to keep him from harm. I don't know if you guys had that in mind, but it reminded me of The Three Laws Of Robotics, where the law "protect the human being from harm" precedes the "follow orders."

Oolon Colluphid

Aw man, Chassiva, I think you've got some competition for tech advisor!

Tony's not a big fan of rules though, even for robots, so he probably designed Friday to say "no" to him because he knows he's a hot mess with a tendency to get in over his head. I think we all need a Friday in our lives!

I have the first four issues of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN so far and I love it. I fell in love with Tony's new armor after reading the first two issues. Having an armor like that for every situation is awesome! I was pretty surprised that Mary Jane Watson will be joining the cast. Any chance in the future there will be a crossover arc between INVINCIBLE IRON MAN and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN? I want to see Spider-Man and MJ's reunion ever since the two parted ways in the SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN finale.

Anthony Murray

Is next issue soon enough? ;)

Make way for another Bendis innovation. INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #4 is a victory dance. You couldn't ask for a more gorgeous cover, from Mary Jane's freckles and body posture to the masterful coloring. I commend the use of Friday. Her log is a clever way to deliver a summary, and using her as a sounding board replaces monologuing (which was referenced) as well as thought bubbles. The fresh take on IRON MAN is welcome. This longtime reader prefers Playboy Tony over Disciplinarian Stark (as seen during CIVIL WAR). Best line of the issue? "I don't care if the Scarlet Witch says 'No More Tonys.'"

Ivan Borodin

It would be a sad world with no more Tonys.

Wassup Marvel, this is the best IRON MAN comic since the sixties and seventies. I had never seen any of Marquez's artwork, but I think he is officially my favorite artist! He makes everything look so real! I like Iron Man's new girlfriend, don't screw it up, Tony! The fight scene in Issue 4 was great!! Iron Man's new armor is amazing. I like the sleek style of it. With this new armor I think Iron Man could take on most of Marvel's other heavy hitters! Bendis has set up a great story and it is shaping up to have a killer conclusion. Does Doctor Doom's face being healed have anything to do with SECRET WARS? And what exactly is MJ gonna do?

Challenger

By the time this book sees print, SECRET WARS #9 should already be on shelves, so if you're wondering about Doctor Doom's face, be sure to pick it up! As for MJ, you'll find out when she shows up for her first day in the next issue!

All right guys, I concede; despite being on the fence about Invincible Iron Man spearheading the ANAD Marvel U, you might be winning me over here. The transition from the Shell-Head's stealth suit into that full-on samurai suit--among other things--was handled superbly, so in regards to the artwork on the title, Marquez has definitely been knocking it out of the park. I've never seen anyone render Madame Masque's, well, mask so meticulously in my entire life thus far.

Also, seeing a cavalcade of classic Iron Man iterations (especially the Superior, Bleeding Edge, Extremis and Silver Centurion suits, which all happen to be among my favorites) like that really did appease my inner fanboy. While I've never cared much for 616 Tony as a character, I think we can all agree that the dude has some fantastic suits of armor in his possession.

I'm not too fond of how MJ was handled this issue, but that's the least of my concerns. If her dad was an abusive drunkard, and Tony himself is a recovering alcoholic, why would she possibly want to get with him? I guess we'll just have to wait and see. Until Tony gets replaced by his teenage self again, Make Mine Marvel!

Suyash Kumar

He offered her a job! Why is everyone assuming she wants to get with him? I hope that's not how job offers work.

Hello there,

I just read issue #4 of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN and my jaw dropped when the suit reconfigured to be a freaking samurai. You guys have outdone yourselves with not just the suit design, but the art and story as well. I can't wait to see how Tony outdoes himself with his next suit and how this story plays out.

Your eternal fan,
Josue Silva

P.S. Now to patiently wait to see if Marvel will make a samurai Iron Man figurine. ;)

I WANT A SAMURAI IRON MAN FIGURINE.

I am absolutely loving INVINCIBLE IRON MAN! David Marquez's art is beautiful and Brian Michael Bendis has me hooked on the story. The new armor is the best! I love its fresh new design and obviously, the fact that it can become any of his previous armors. Another thing I'd like to mention...Madame Masque, Victor Von Doom, and now, Mary Jane?! There are just so many great characters in this book that, along with the action, humor, and occasional romance make this one of the comics I most look forward to reading.

Alex Wong

We're happy you're happy, Alex!

And that's all we've got room for this issue! We had so many letters I couldn't even answer them all, so if you didn't see yours this issue, you may see it next issue--and I still want more! Keep sending in your letters so we don't have to start drawing stick figures of Tony and Rhodey to fill up the space (unless you're just, super into that sort of thing).

Until next time, Shell-Heads!

The Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT ISSUE:

NEW HIRE!

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR II

MARVEL

BENDIS • DEODATO • MARTIN

#7

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION

Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger **IRON MAN.**

FRIDAY'S LOG:

RECENTLY COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS:

- SEND RHODEY TO JAPAN TO FIND OUT "WHAT IS UP" WITH THE BIOHACK NINJAS THAT WERE TRAILING MADAME MASQUE.
- HIRE NIGHTCLUB OWNER MARY JANE WATSON TO "ORGANIZE THE #$%@" OUT OF YOUR LIFE.

IN-PROGRESS AGENDA ITEMS:

- MEET MARY JANE ON HER FIRST DAY AT STARK [NOTE: DO NOT BE LATE.]
- [NOTE: I MEAN IT. DO NOT BE LATE.]
- CHECK IN ON RHODEY'S PROGRESS (EVEN THOUGH IT ANNOYS HIM AND HE SAID NOT TO).

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FRANK MARTIN COLOR ARTIST
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER & PRODUCTION
MIKE DEODATO & FRANK MARTIN COVER ARTISTS
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IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY

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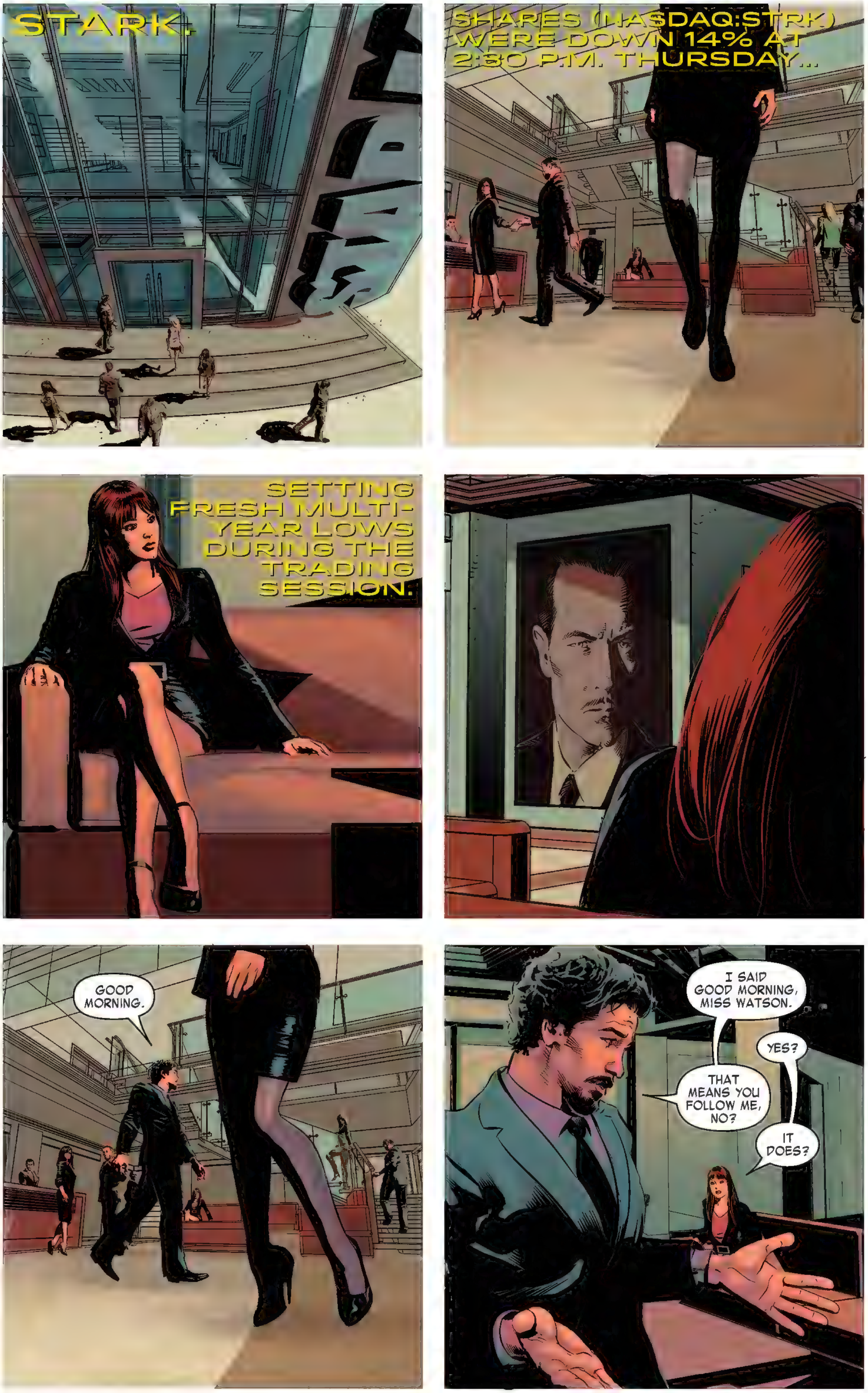
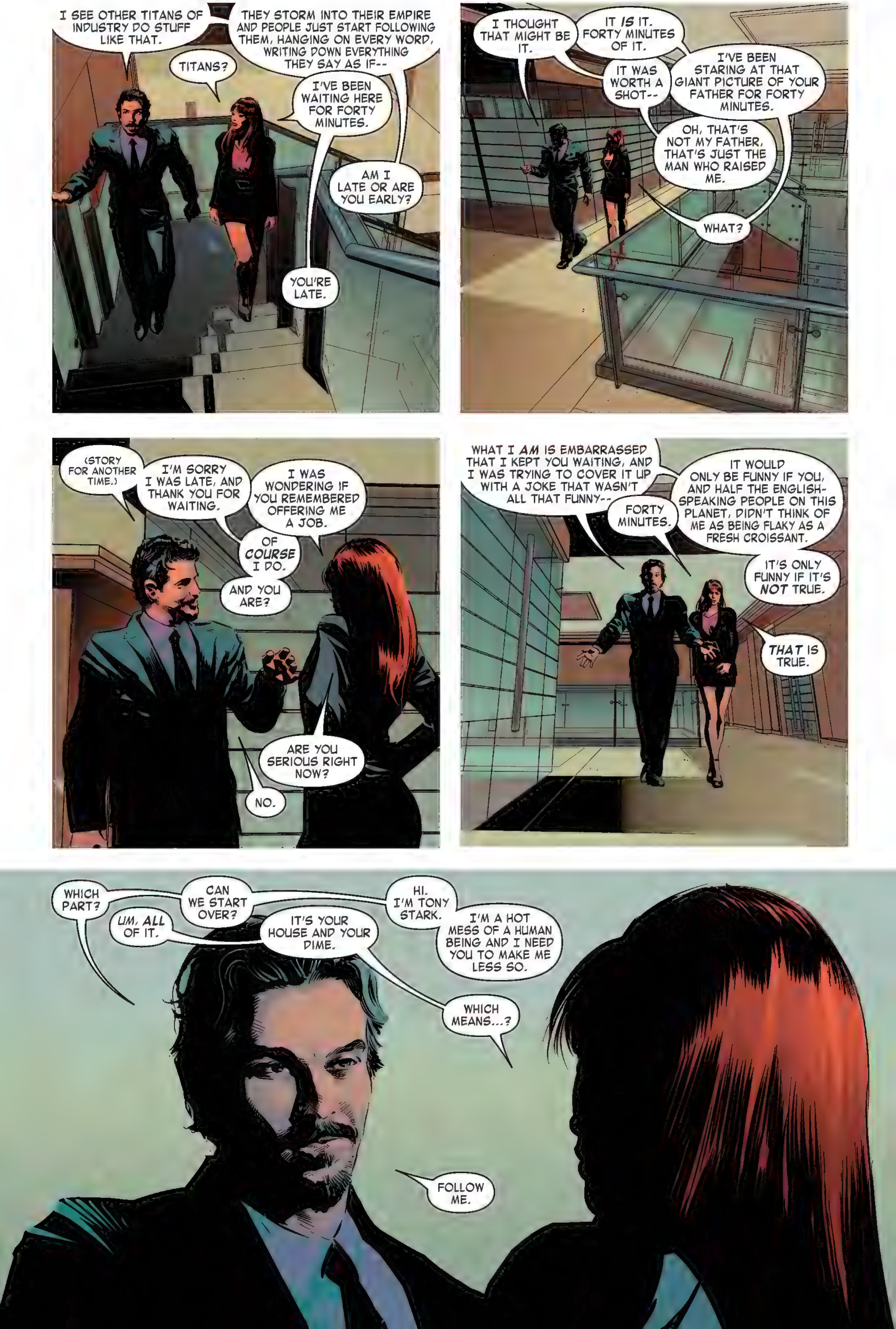
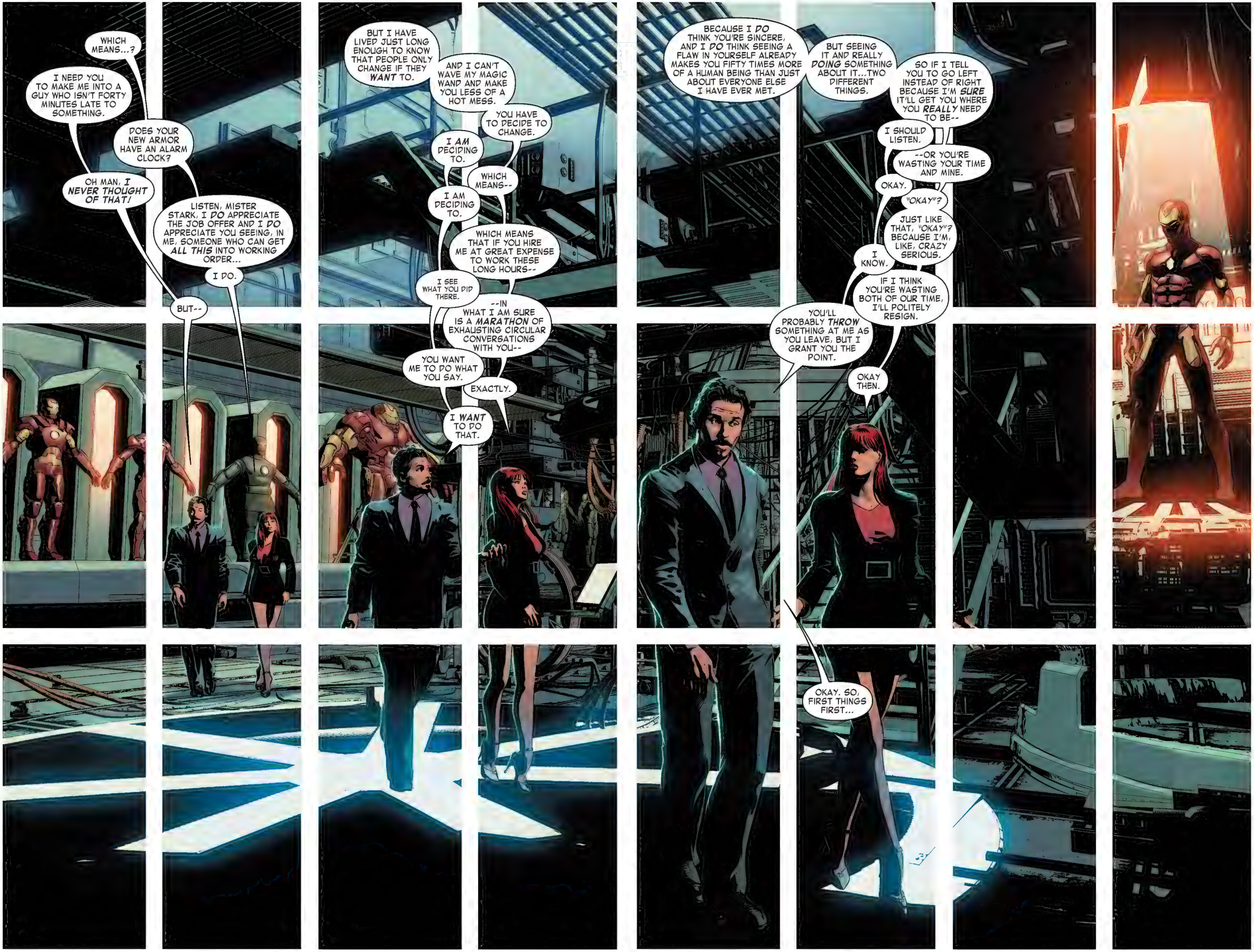
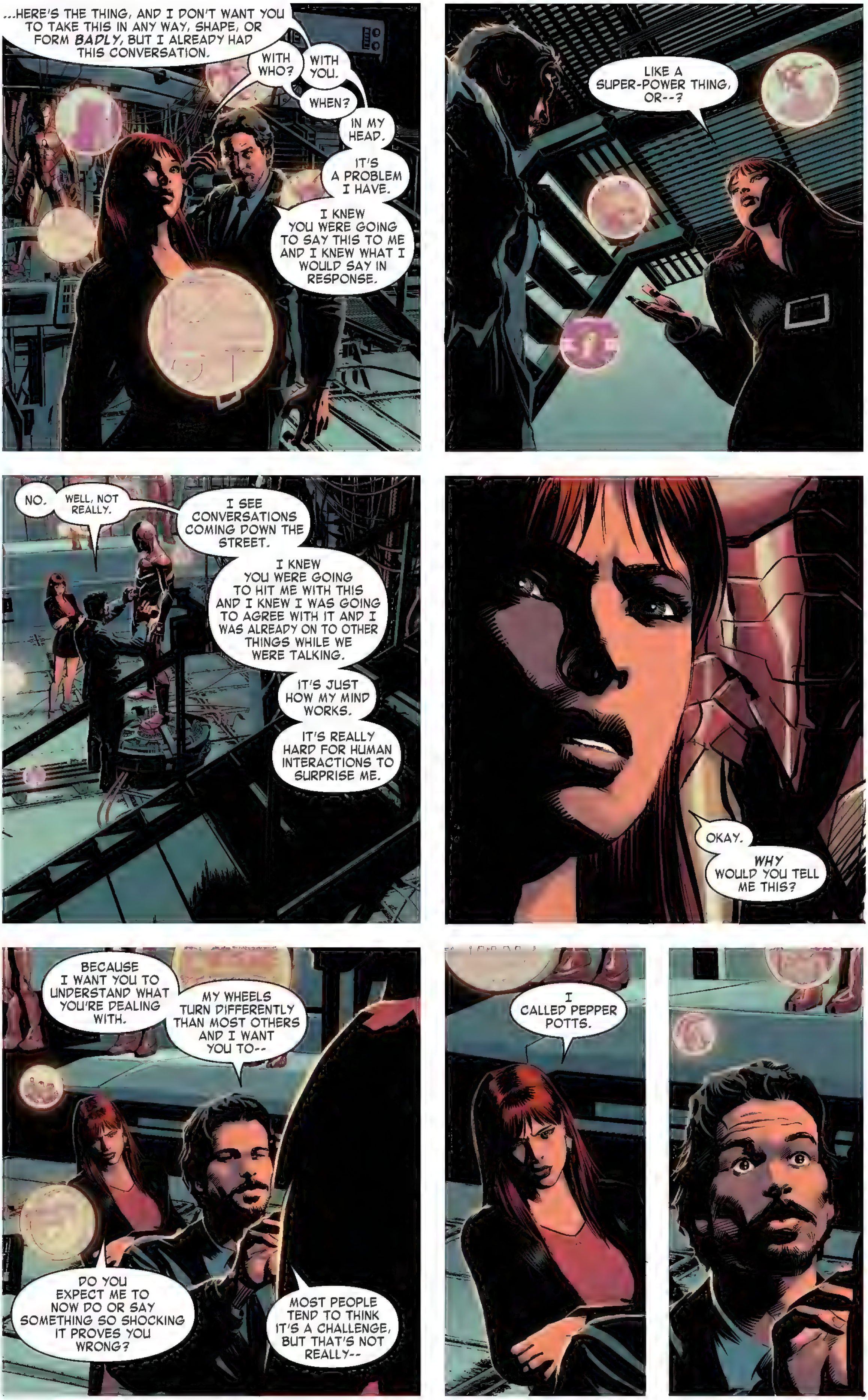
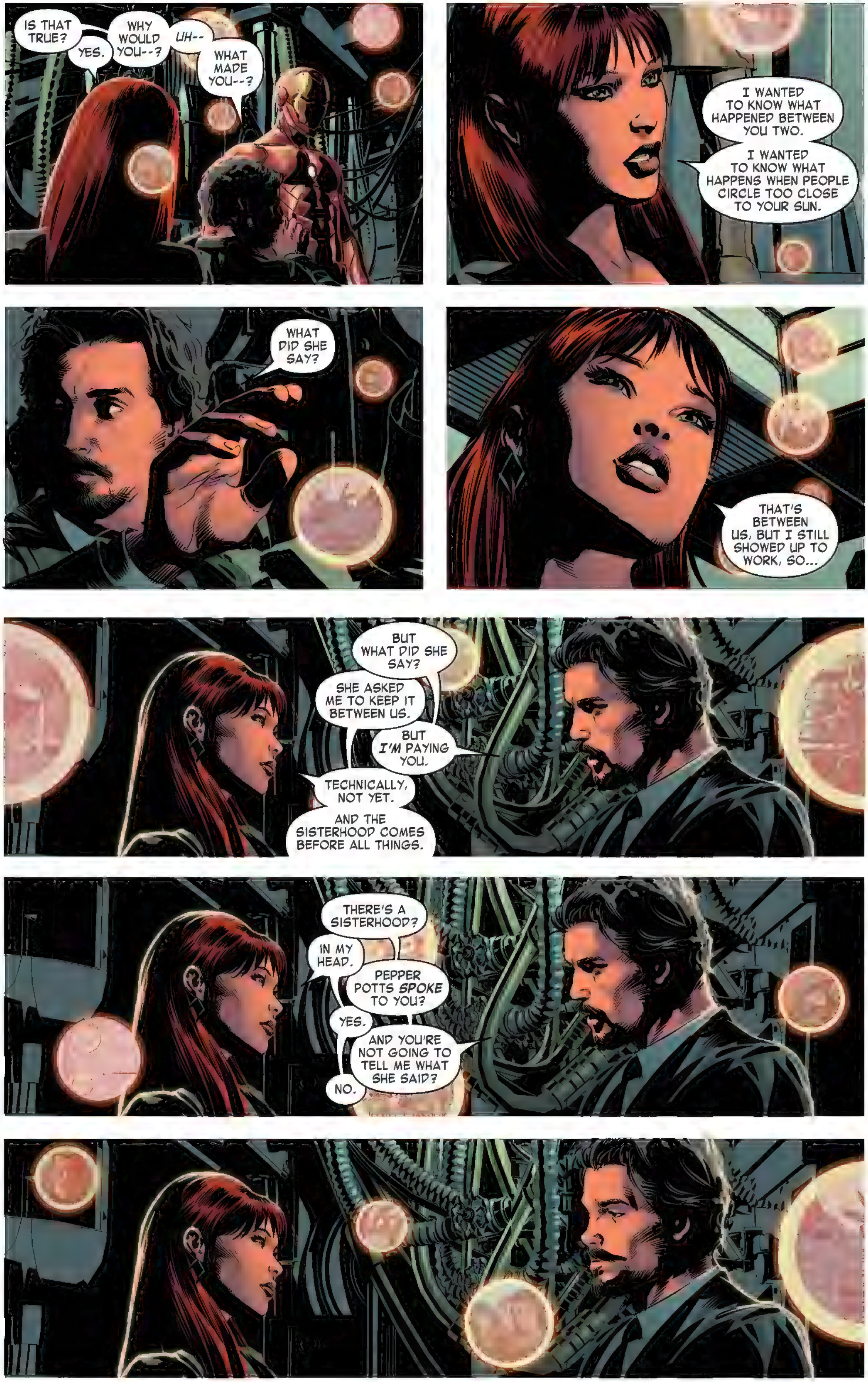
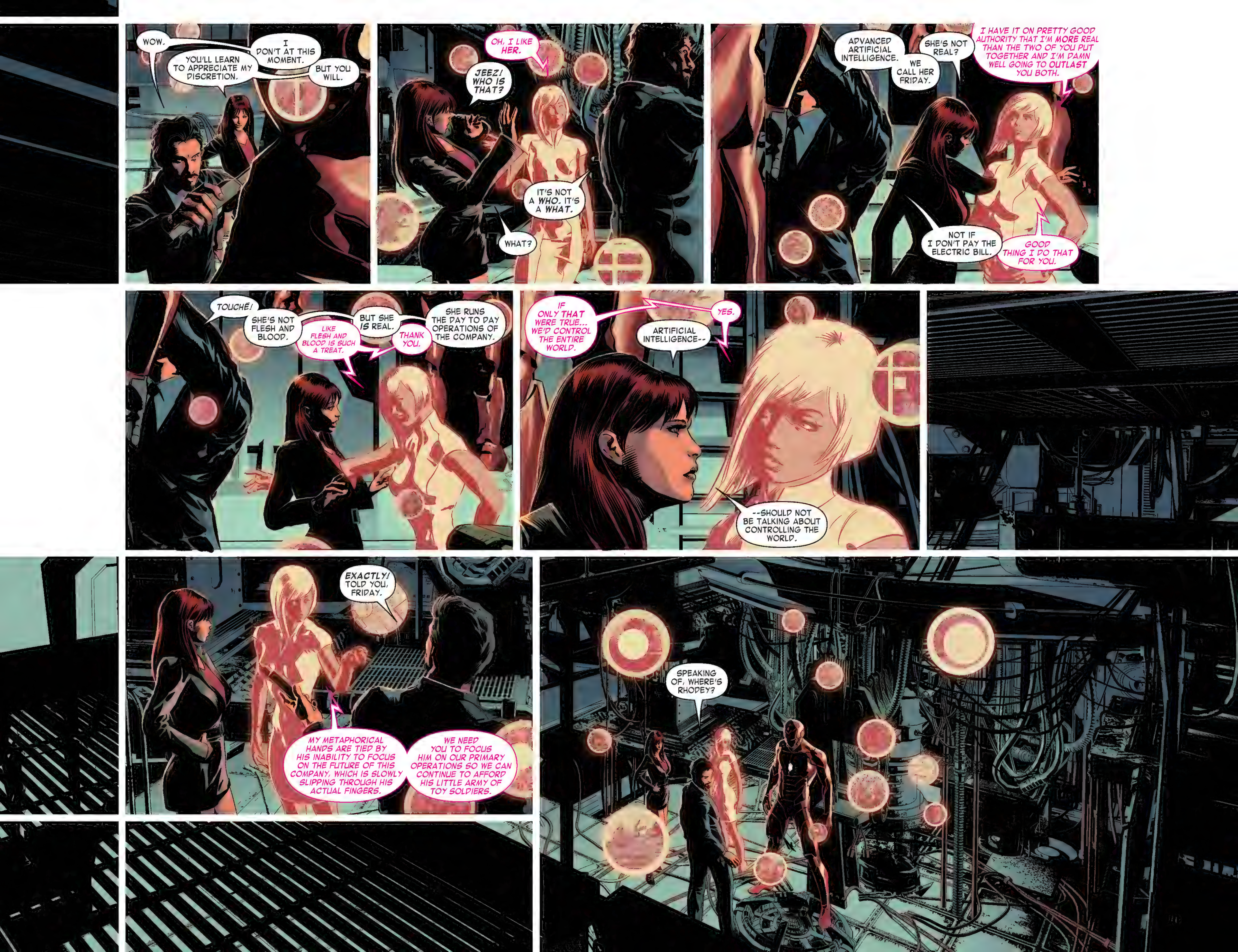

STARK.
SHARES (NASDAQ:STRK) WERE DOWN 14% AT 2:30 P.M. THURSDAY...
SETTING FRESH MULTI-YEAR LOWS DURING THE TRADING SESSION.
GOOD MORNING.
I SAID GOOD MORNING, MISS WATSON.
YES?
THAT MEANS YOU FOLLOW ME, NO?
IT DOES?

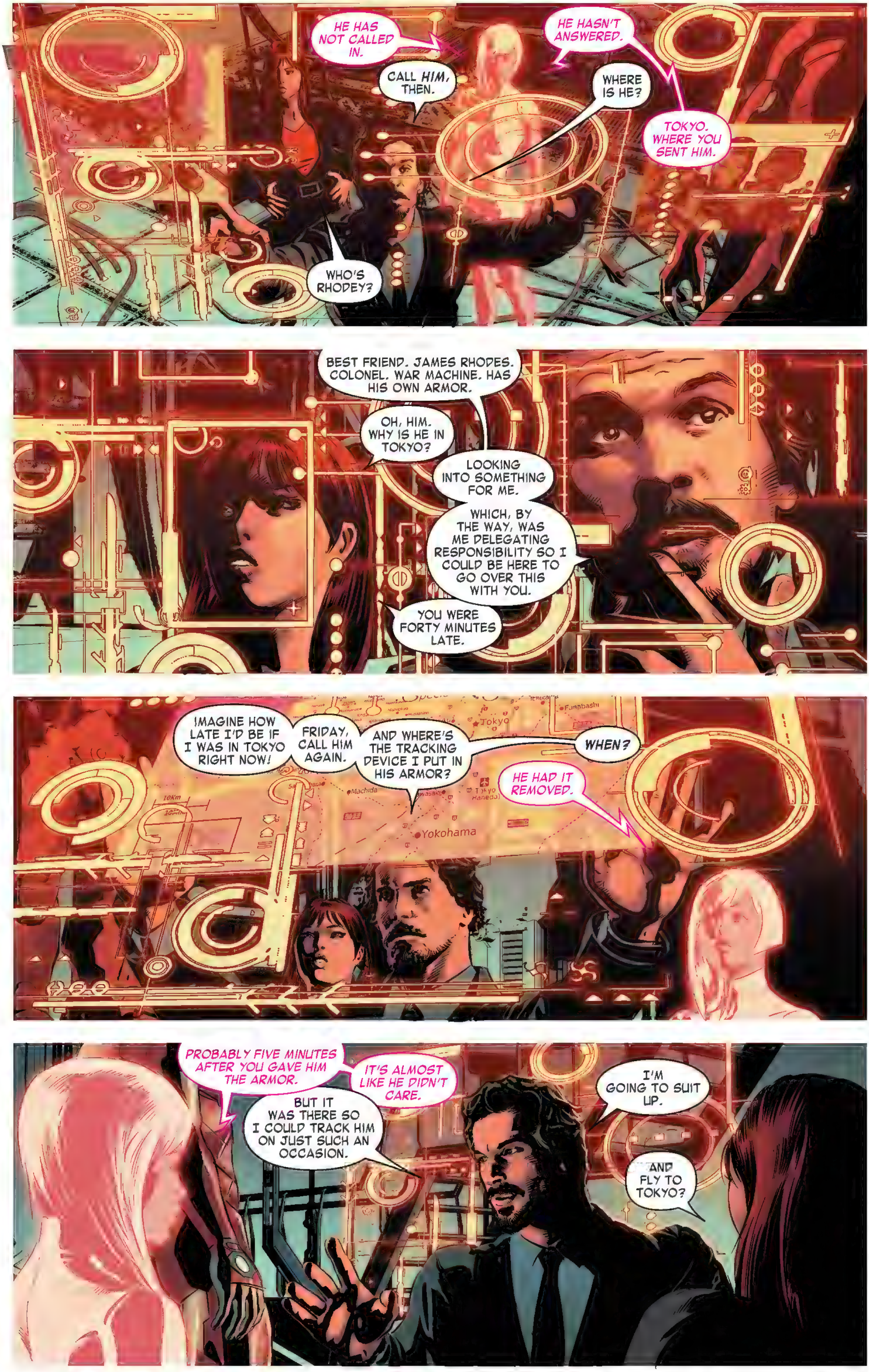

I SEE OTHER TITANS OF INDUSTRY DO STUFF LIKE THAT.
THEY STORM INTO THEIR EMPIRE AND PEOPLE JUST START FOLLOWING THEM, HANGING ON EVERY WORD, WRITING DOWN EVERYTHING THEY SAY AS IF--
TITANS?
I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR FORTY MINUTES.
AM I LATE OR ARE YOU EARLY?
YOU'RE LATE.
I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE IT.
IT *IS* IT. FORTY MINUTES OF IT.
IT WAS WORTH A SHOT--
I'VE BEEN STARING AT THAT GIANT PICTURE OF YOUR FATHER FOR FORTY MINUTES.
OH, THAT'S NOT MY FATHER, THAT'S JUST THE MAN WHO RAISED ME.
WHAT?
(STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME.)
I'M SORRY I WAS LATE, AND THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU REMEMBERED OFFERING ME A JOB.
OF *COURSE* I DO.
AND YOU ARE?
ARE YOU SERIOUS RIGHT NOW?
NO.
WHAT I *AM* IS EMBARRASSED THAT I KEPT YOU WAITING, AND I WAS TRYING TO COVER IT UP WITH A JOKE THAT WASN'T ALL THAT FUNNY--
FORTY MINUTES.
IT WOULD ONLY BE FUNNY IF YOU, AND HALF THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET, DIDN'T THINK OF ME AS BEING FLAKY AS A FRESH CROISSANT.
IT'S ONLY FUNNY IF IT'S *NOT* TRUE.
THAT IS TRUE.
WHICH PART?
UM, *ALL* OF IT.
CAN WE START OVER?
IT'S YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR DIME.
HI. I'M TONY STARK.
I'M A HOT MESS OF A HUMAN BEING AND I NEED YOU TO MAKE ME LESS SO.
WHICH MEANS...?
FOLLOW ME.

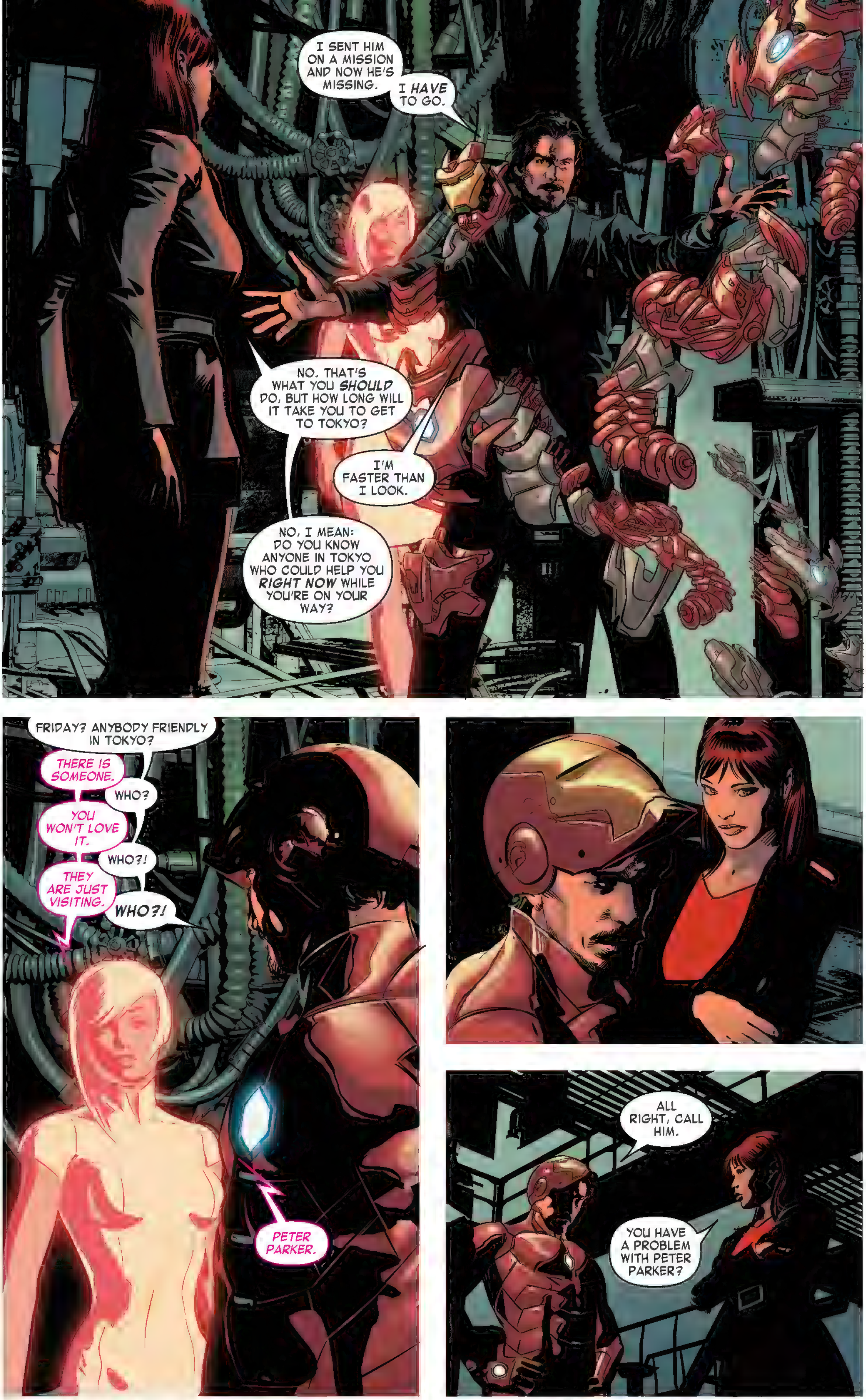

WHICH MEANS...?
I NEED YOU TO MAKE ME INTO A GUY WHO ISN'T FORTY MINUTES LATE TO SOMETHING.
DOES YOUR NEW ARMOR HAVE AN ALARM CLOCK?
OH MAN, I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!
LISTEN, MISTER STARK, I DO APPRECIATE THE JOB OFFER AND I DO APPRECIATE YOU SEEING, IN ME, SOMEONE WHO CAN GET ALL THIS INTO WORKING ORDER...
I DO.
BUT--
BUT I HAVE LIVED JUST LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT PEOPLE ONLY CHANGE IF THEY WANT TO.
AND I CAN'T WAVE MY MAGIC WAND AND MAKE YOU LESS OF A HOT MESS.
YOU HAVE TO DECIDE TO CHANGE.
I AM DECIDING TO.
WHICH MEANS--
I AM DECIDING TO.
WHICH MEANS THAT IF YOU HIRE ME AT GREAT EXPENSE TO WORK THESE LONG HOURS--
I SEE WHAT YOU DID THERE.
--IN WHAT I AM SURE IS A MARATHON OF EXHAUSTING CIRCULAR CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU--
YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT YOU SAY.
EXACTLY.
I WANT TO DO THAT.
BECAUSE I DO THINK YOU'RE SINCERE, AND I DO THINK SEEING A FLAW IN YOURSELF ALREADY MAKES YOU FIFTY TIMES MORE OF A HUMAN BEING THAN JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE I HAVE EVER MET.
BUT SEEING IT AND REALLY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT...TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.
SO IF I TELL YOU TO GO LEFT INSTEAD OF RIGHT BECAUSE I'M SURE IT'LL GET YOU WHERE YOU REALLY NEED TO BE--
I SHOULD LISTEN.
--OR YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME AND MINE.
OKAY.
"OKAY"?
JUST LIKE THAT, "OKAY"? BECAUSE I'M, LIKE, CRAZY SERIOUS.
I KNOW.
IF I THINK YOU'RE WASTING BOTH OF OUR TIME, I'LL POLITELY RESIGN.
YOU'LL PROBABLY THROW SOMETHING AT ME AS YOU LEAVE, BUT I GRANT YOU THE POINT.
OKAY THEN.
OKAY. SO, FIRST THINGS FIRST...

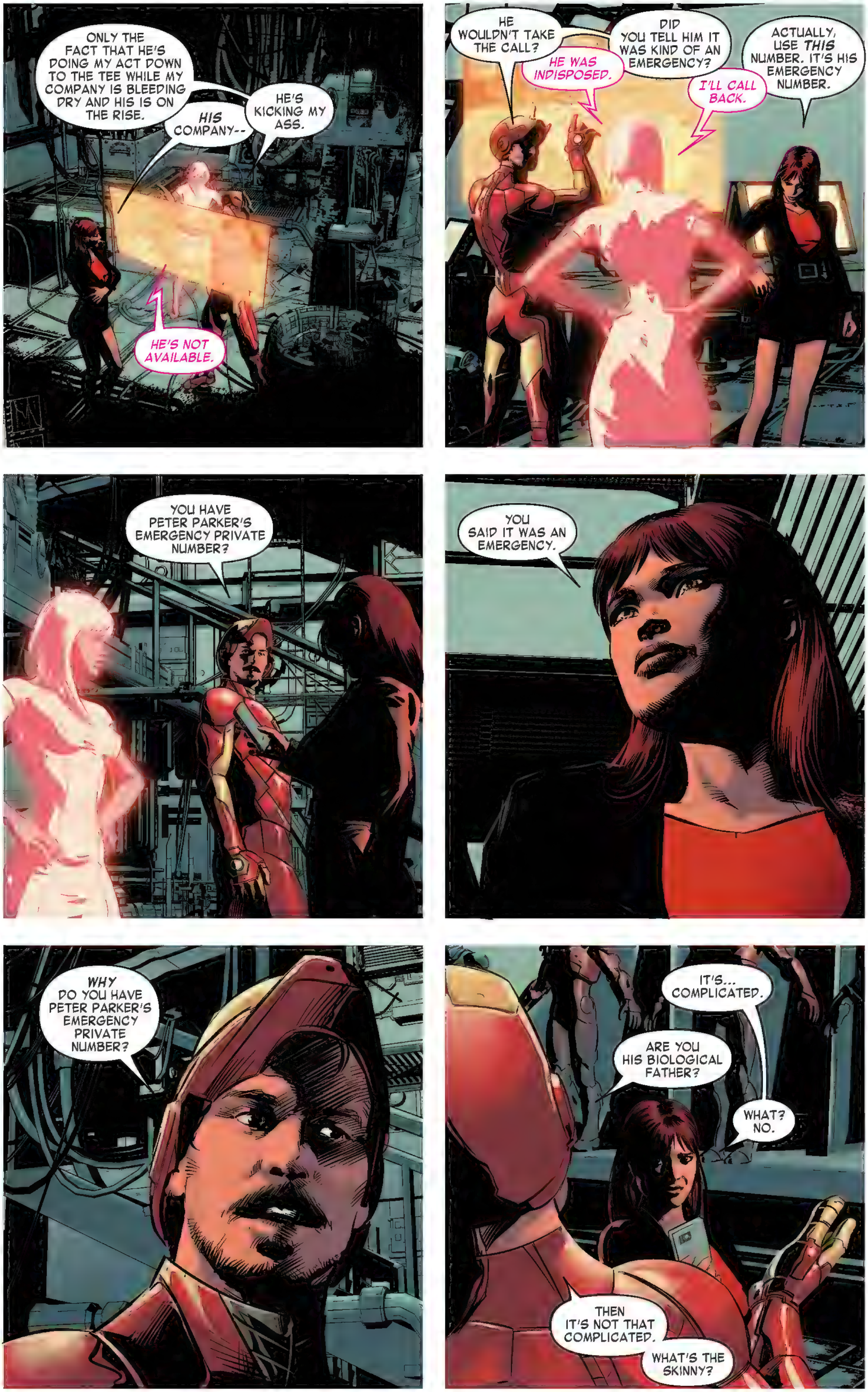

...HERE'S THE THING, AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM *BADLY*, BUT I ALREADY HAD THIS CONVERSATION.
WITH WHO?
WITH YOU.
WHEN?
IN MY HEAD.
IT'S A PROBLEM I HAVE.
I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THIS TO ME AND I KNEW WHAT I WOULD SAY IN RESPONSE.
LIKE A SUPER-POWER THING, OR--?
NO.
WELL, NOT REALLY.
I SEE CONVERSATIONS COMING DOWN THE STREET.
I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO HIT ME WITH THIS AND I KNEW I WAS GOING TO AGREE WITH IT AND I WAS ALREADY ON TO OTHER THINGS WHILE WE WERE TALKING.
IT'S JUST HOW MY MIND WORKS.
IT'S REALLY HARD FOR HUMAN INTERACTIONS TO SURPRISE ME.
OKAY.
WHY WOULD YOU TELL ME THIS?
BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH.
MY WHEELS TURN DIFFERENTLY THAN MOST OTHERS AND I WANT YOU TO--
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO NOW DO OR SAY SOMETHING SO SHOCKING IT PROVES YOU WRONG?
MOST PEOPLE TEND TO THINK IT'S A CHALLENGE, BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY--
I CALLED PEPPER POTTS.

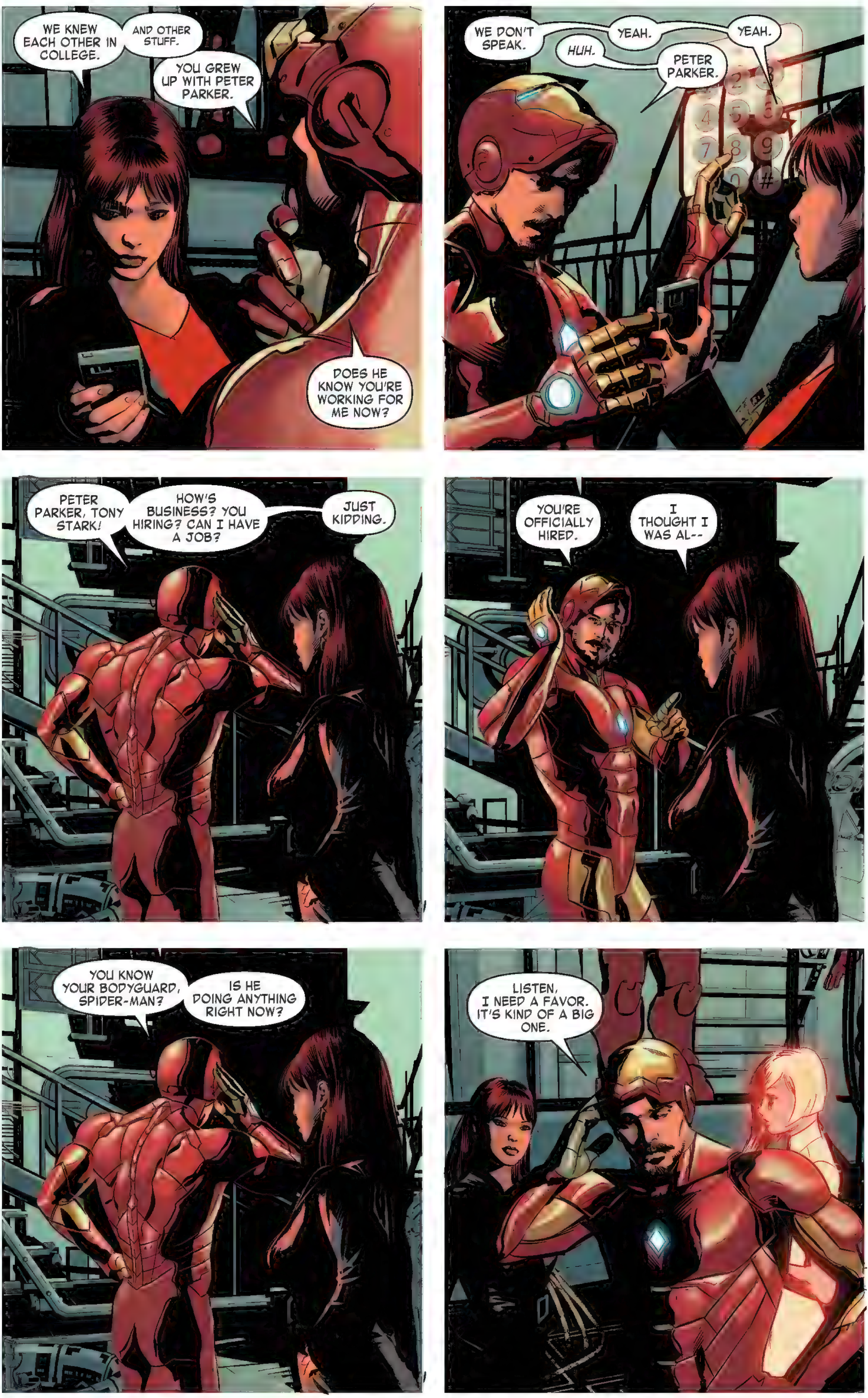

IS THAT TRUE?
YES.
WHY WOULD YOU--?
UH--
WHAT MADE YOU--?
I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO.
I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE CIRCLE TOO CLOSE TO YOUR SUN.
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
THAT'S BETWEEN US, BUT I STILL SHOWED UP TO WORK, SO...
BUT WHAT DID SHE SAY?
SHE ASKED ME TO KEEP IT BETWEEN US.
BUT *I'M* PAYING YOU.
TECHNICALLY, NOT YET.
AND THE SISTERHOOD COMES BEFORE ALL THINGS.
THERE'S A SISTERHOOD?
IN MY HEAD.
PEPPER POTTS *SPOKE* TO YOU?
YES.
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME WHAT SHE SAID?
NO.

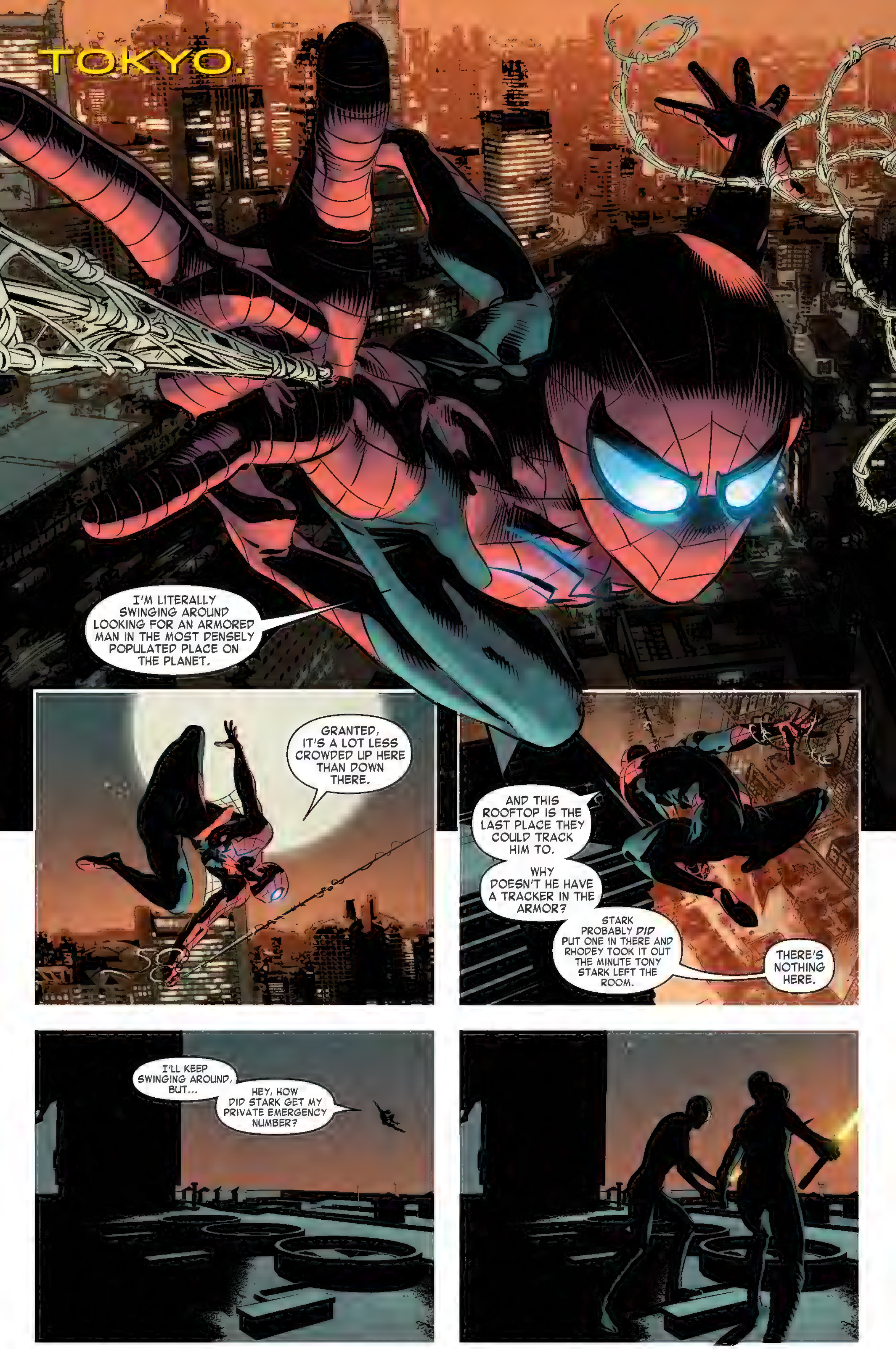

WOW.
I DON'T AT THIS MOMENT.
YOU'LL LEARN TO APPRECIATE MY DISCRETION.
BUT YOU WILL.
OH, I LIKE HER.
JEEZ! WHO IS THAT?
IT'S NOT A WHO. IT'S A WHAT.
WHAT?
ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
WE CALL HER FRIDAY.
SHE'S NOT REAL?
I HAVE IT ON PRETTY GOOD AUTHORITY THAT I'M MORE REAL THAN THE TWO OF YOU PUT TOGETHER AND I'M DAMN WELL GOING TO OUTLAST YOU BOTH.
NOT IF I DON'T PAY THE ELECTRIC BILL.
GOOD THING I DO THAT FOR YOU.
TOUCHÉ!
SHE'S NOT FLESH AND BLOOD.
BUT SHE IS REAL.
LIKE FLESH AND BLOOD IS SUCH A TREAT.
THANK YOU.
SHE RUNS THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THE COMPANY.
IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE... WE'D CONTROL THE ENTIRE WORLD.
YES.
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE--
--SHOULD NOT BE TALKING ABOUT CONTROLLING THE WORLD.
EXACTLY! TOLD YOU, FRIDAY.
MY METAPHORICAL HANDS ARE TIED BY HIS INABILITY TO FOCUS ON THE FUTURE OF THIS COMPANY, WHICH IS SLOWLY SLIPPING THROUGH HIS ACTUAL FINGERS.
WE NEED YOU TO FOCUS HIM ON OUR PRIMARY OPERATIONS SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO AFFORD HIS LITTLE ARMY OF TOY SOLDIERS.
SPEAKING OF, WHERE'S RHODEY?

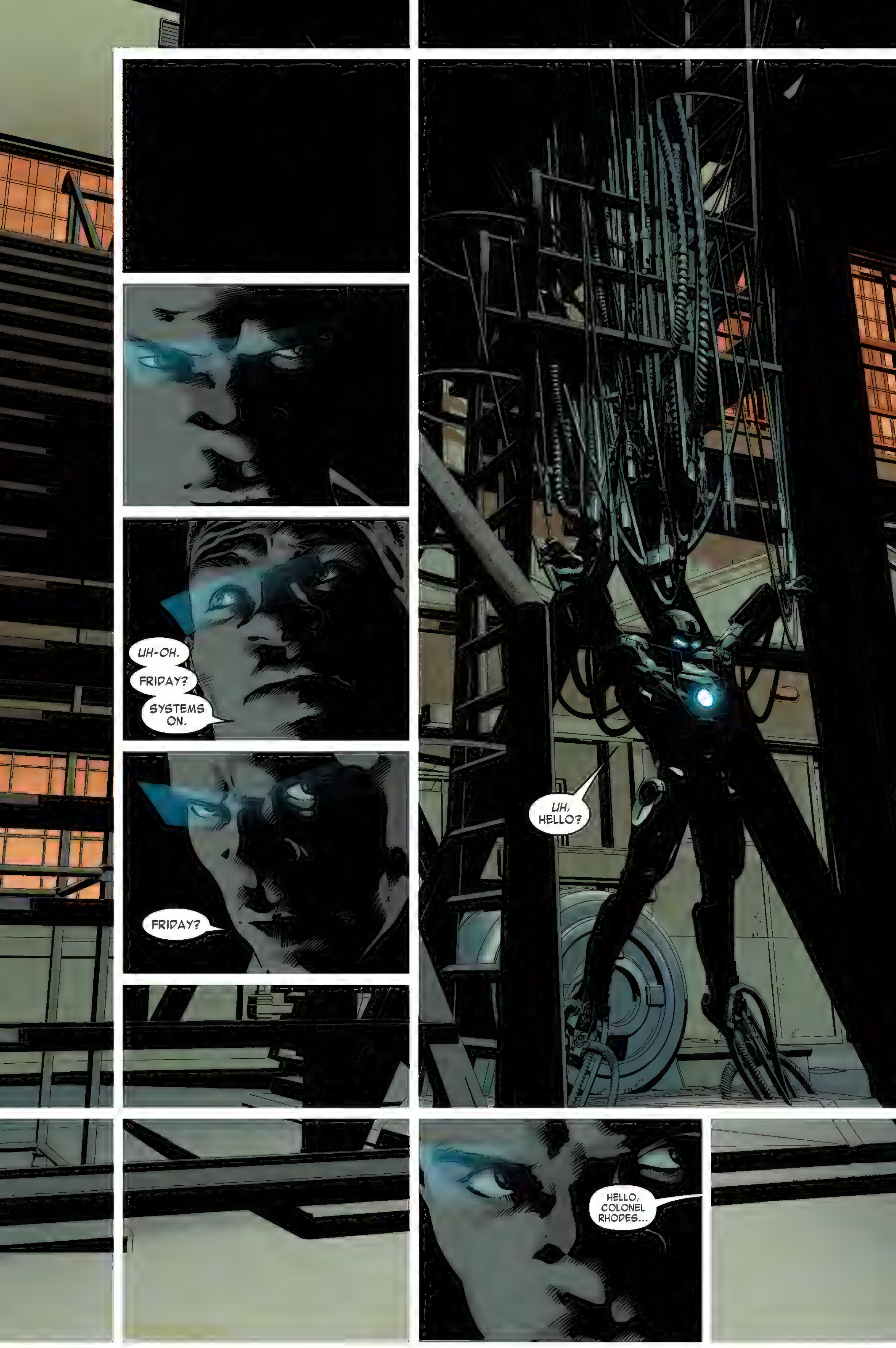

HE HAS NOT CALLED IN.
CALL *HIM*, THEN.
HE HASN'T ANSWERED.
WHERE IS HE?
TOKYO. WHERE YOU SENT HIM.
WHO'S RHODEY?
BEST FRIEND. JAMES RHODES. COLONEL. WAR MACHINE. HAS HIS OWN ARMOR.
OH, HIM. WHY IS HE IN TOKYO?
LOOKING INTO SOMETHING FOR ME.
WHICH, BY THE WAY, WAS ME DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITY SO I COULD BE HERE TO GO OVER THIS WITH YOU.
YOU WERE FORTY MINUTES LATE.
IMAGINE HOW LATE I'D BE IF I WAS IN TOKYO RIGHT NOW!
FRIDAY, CALL HIM AGAIN.
AND WHERE'S THE TRACKING DEVICE I PUT IN HIS ARMOR?
HE HAD IT REMOVED.
WHEN?
Tokyo
Yokohama
Machida
Funabashi
10Km
PROBABLY FIVE MINUTES AFTER YOU GAVE HIM THE ARMOR.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE HE DIDN'T CARE.
BUT IT WAS THERE SO I COULD TRACK HIM ON JUST SUCH AN OCCASION.
I'M GOING TO SUIT UP.
AND FLY TO TOKYO?

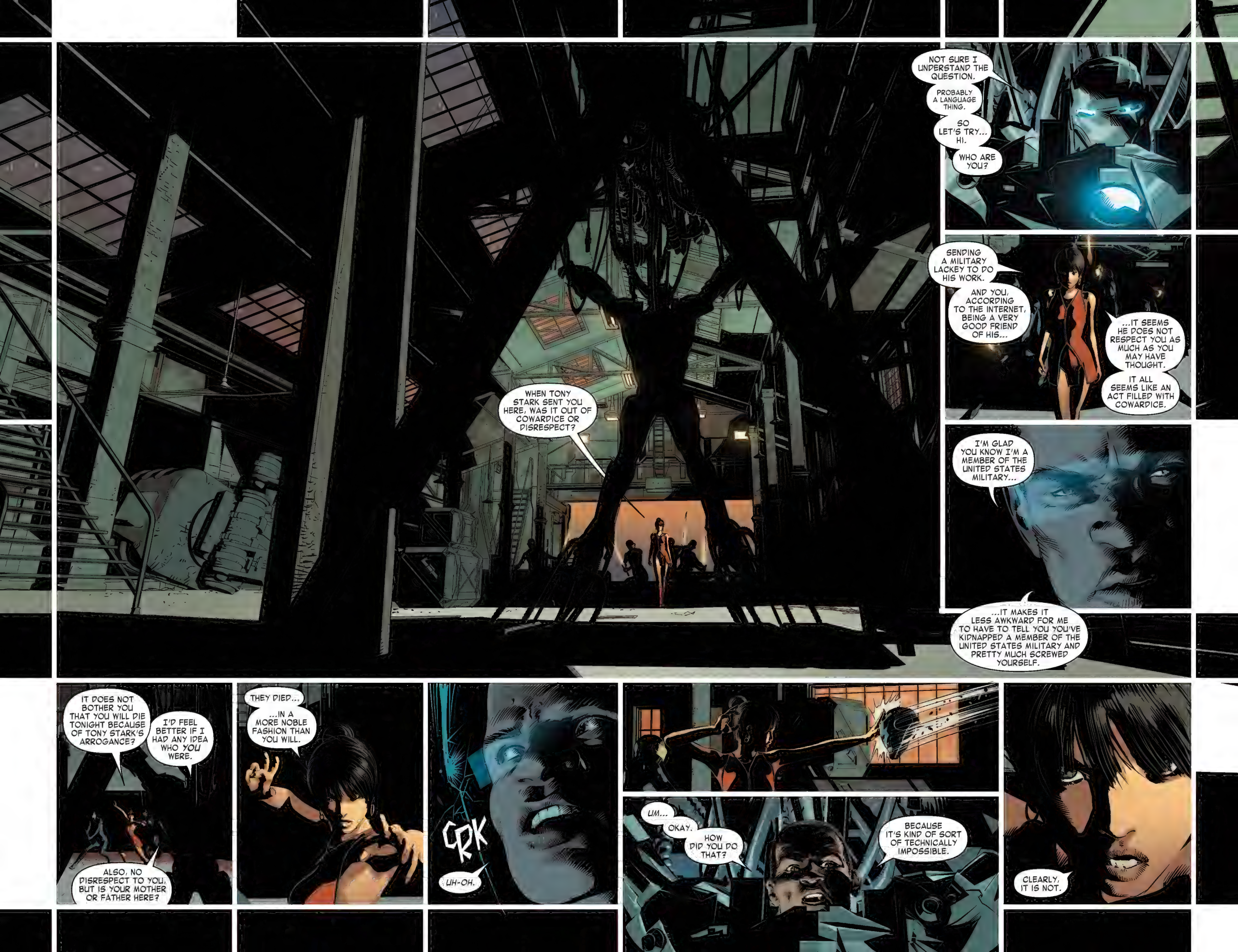

I SENT HIM ON A MISSION AND NOW HE'S MISSING.
I *HAVE* TO GO.
NO. THAT'S WHAT YOU ***SHOULD*** DO, BUT HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE YOU TO GET TO TOKYO?
I'M FASTER THAN I LOOK.
NO, I MEAN: DO YOU KNOW ANYONE IN TOKYO WHO COULD HELP YOU ***RIGHT NOW*** WHILE YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY?
FRIDAY? ANYBODY FRIENDLY IN TOKYO?
THERE IS SOMEONE.
WHO?
YOU WON'T LOVE IT.
WHO?!
THEY ARE JUST VISITING.
WHO?!
PETER PARKER.
ALL RIGHT, CALL HIM.
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH PETER PARKER?

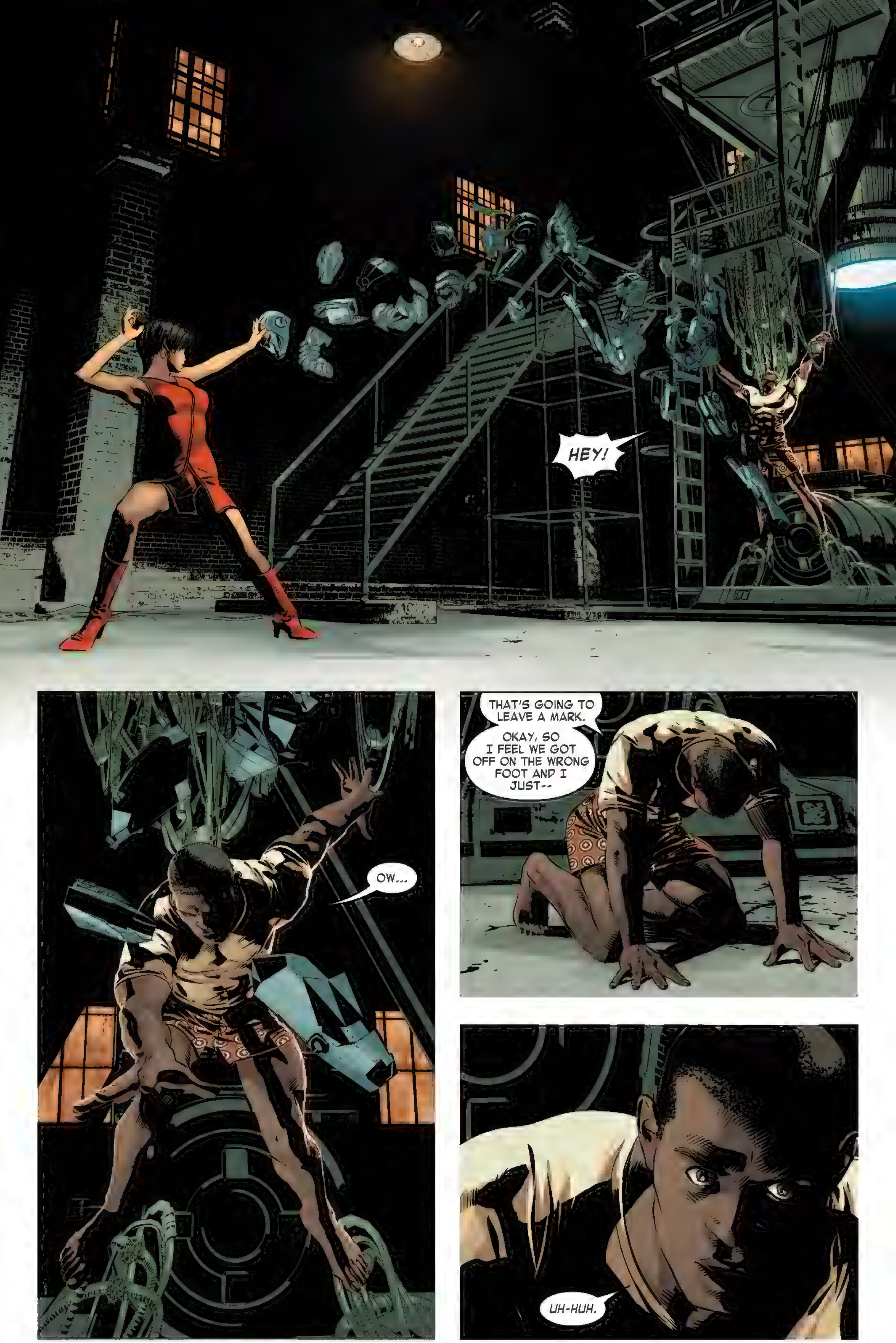

ONLY THE FACT THAT HE'S DOING MY ACT DOWN TO THE TEE WHILE MY COMPANY IS BLEEDING DRY AND HIS IS ON THE RISE.
HIS COMPANY--
HE'S KICKING MY ASS.
HE'S NOT AVAILABLE.
HE WOULDN'T TAKE THE CALL?
HE WAS INDISPOSED.
DID YOU TELL HIM IT WAS KIND OF AN EMERGENCY?
I'LL CALL BACK.
ACTUALLY, USE *THIS* NUMBER. IT'S HIS EMERGENCY NUMBER.
YOU HAVE PETER PARKER'S EMERGENCY PRIVATE NUMBER?
YOU SAID IT WAS AN EMERGENCY.
WHY DO YOU HAVE PETER PARKER'S EMERGENCY PRIVATE NUMBER?
IT'S... COMPLICATED.
ARE YOU HIS BIOLOGICAL FATHER?
WHAT? NO.
THEN IT'S NOT THAT COMPLICATED.
WHAT'S THE SKINNY?

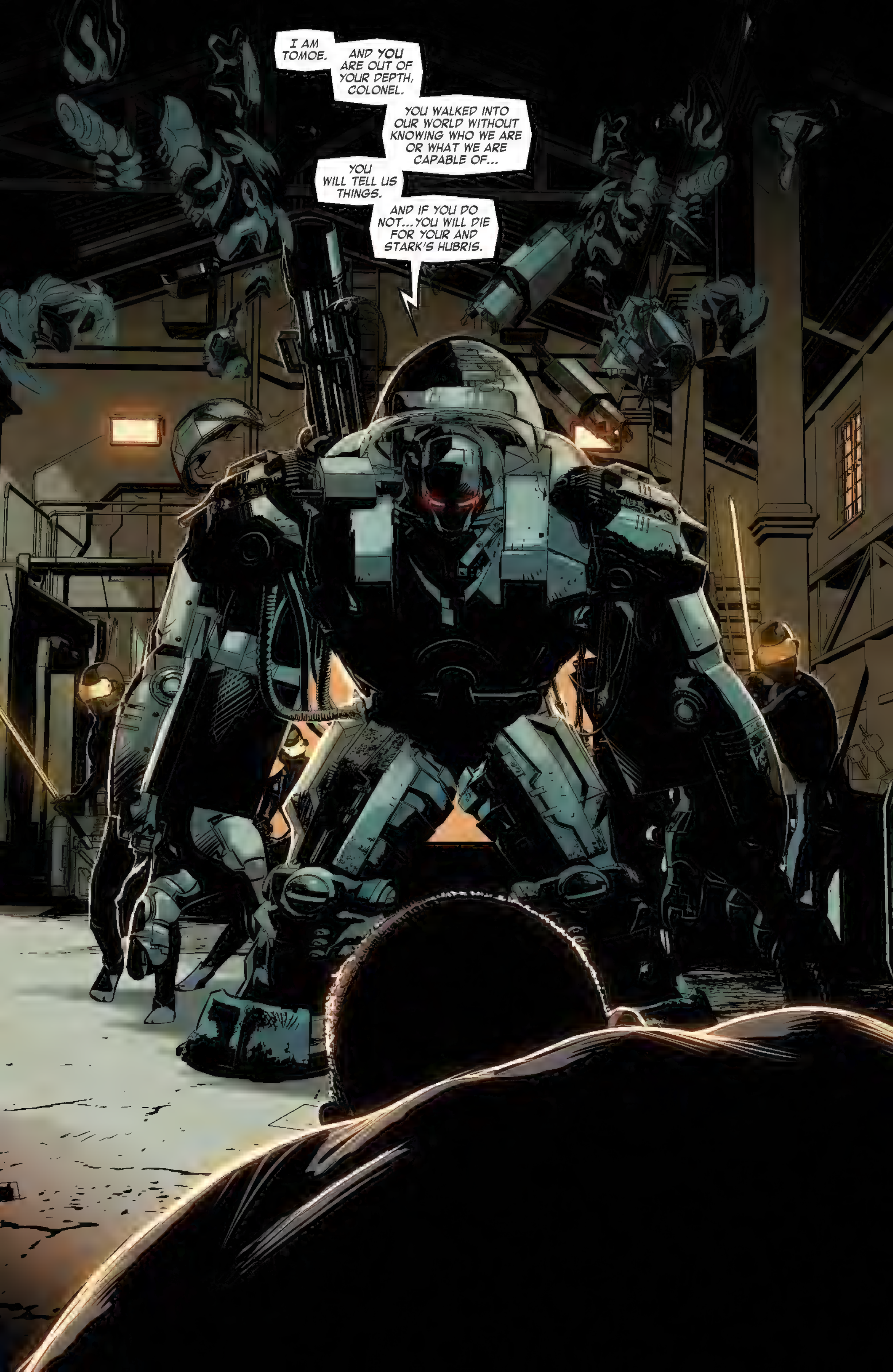

WE KNEW EACH OTHER IN COLLEGE.
AND OTHER STUFF.
YOU GREW UP WITH PETER PARKER.
DOES HE KNOW YOU'RE WORKING FOR ME NOW?
WE DON'T SPEAK.
YEAH.
HUH.
PETER PARKER.
YEAH.
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
0
#
PETER PARKER, TONY STARK!
HOW'S BUSINESS? YOU HIRING? CAN I HAVE A JOB?
JUST KIDDING.
YOU'RE OFFICIALLY HIRED.
I THOUGHT I WAS AL--
YOU KNOW YOUR BODYGUARD, SPIDER-MAN?
IS HE DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW?
LISTEN, I NEED A FAVOR. IT'S KIND OF A BIG ONE.

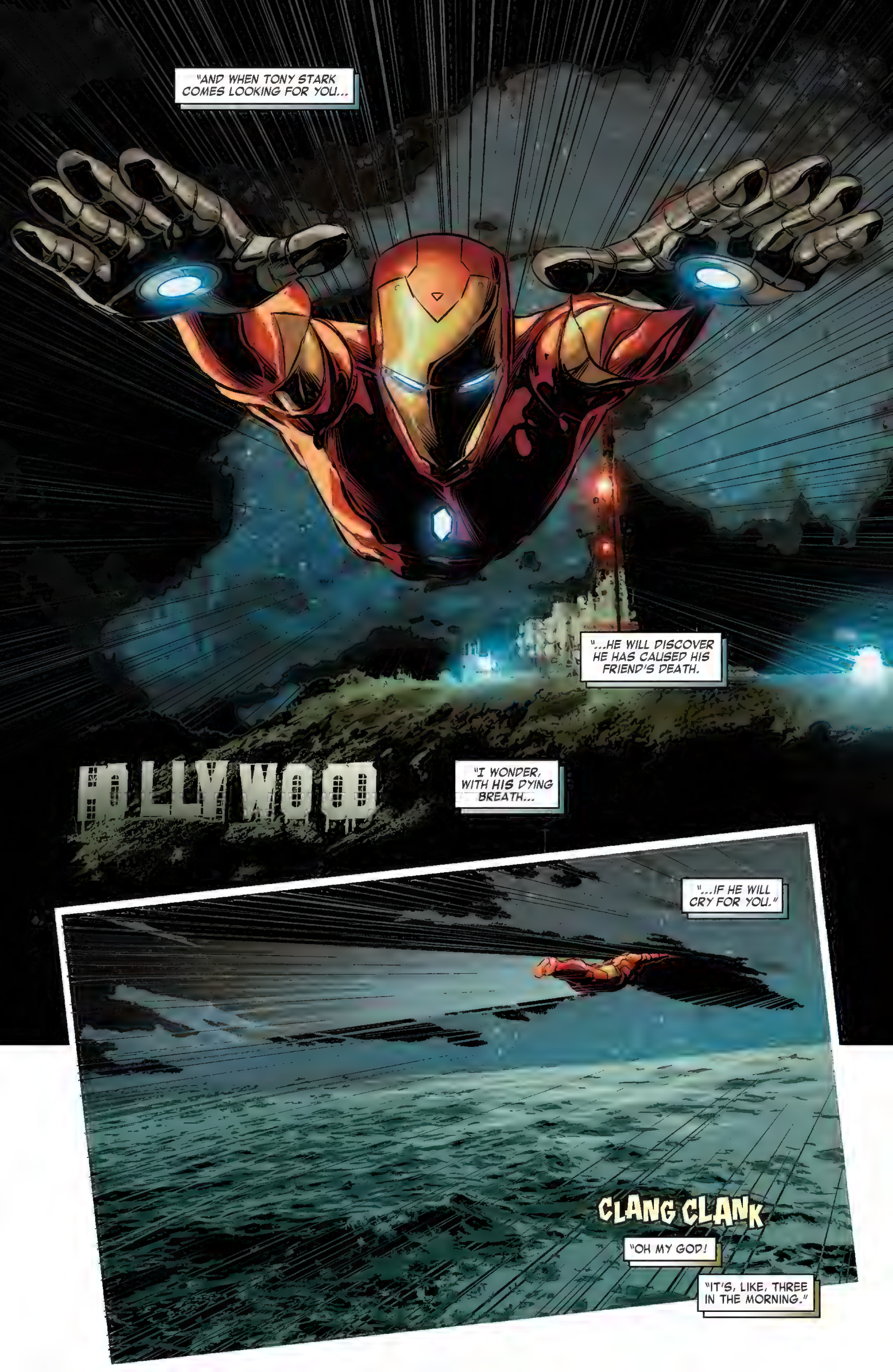

TOKYO.
I'M LITERALLY SWINGING AROUND LOOKING FOR AN ARMORED MAN IN THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED PLACE ON THE PLANET.
GRANTED, IT'S A LOT LESS CROWDED UP HERE THAN DOWN THERE.
AND THIS ROOFTOP IS THE LAST PLACE THEY COULD TRACK HIM TO.
WHY DOESN'T HE HAVE A TRACKER IN THE ARMOR?
STARK PROBABLY *DID* PUT ONE IN THERE AND RHODEY TOOK IT OUT THE MINUTE TONY STARK LEFT THE ROOM.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
I'LL KEEP SWINGING AROUND, BUT...
HEY, HOW DID STARK GET MY PRIVATE EMERGENCY NUMBER?

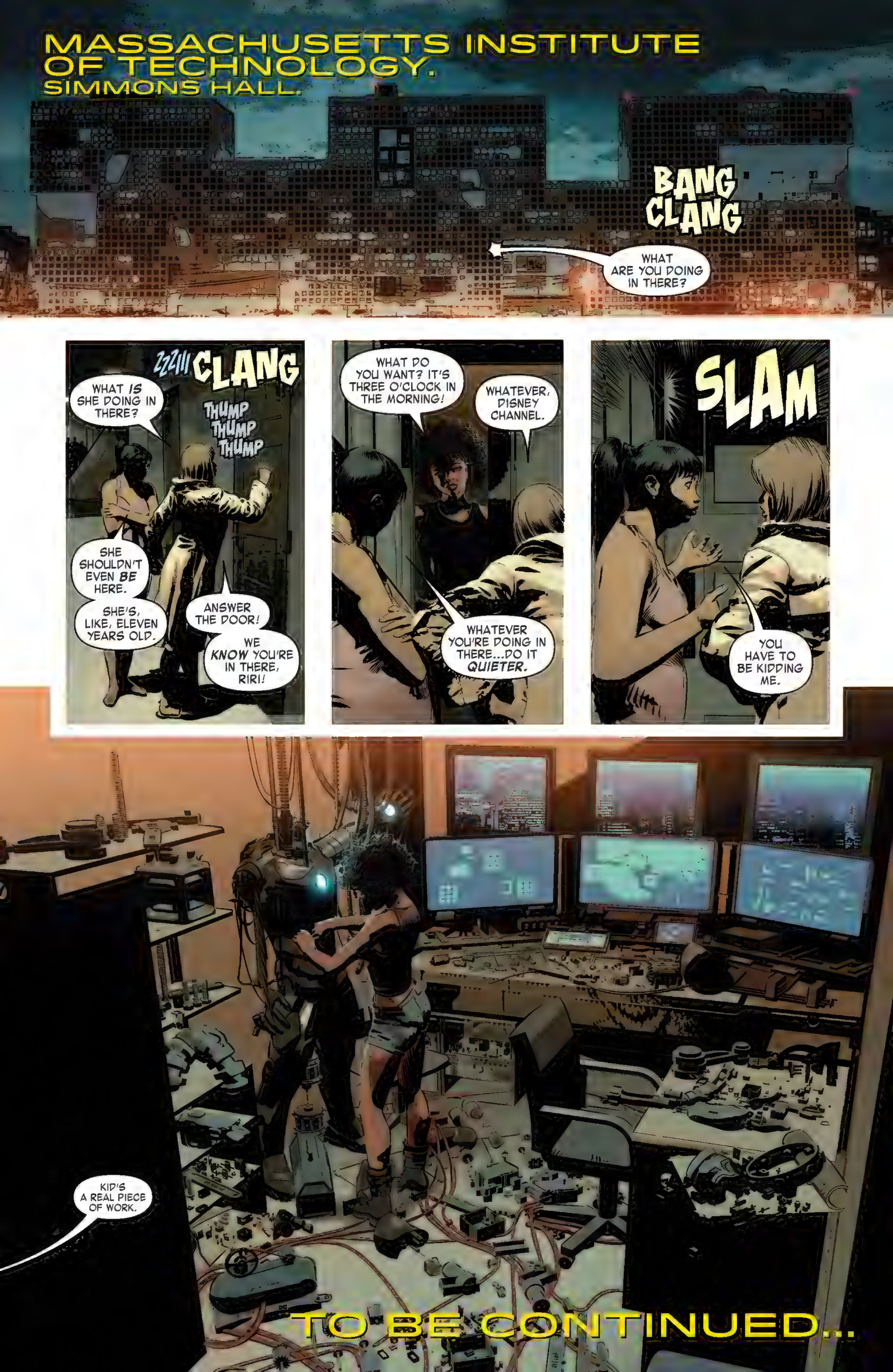

UH-OH.
FRIDAY?
SYSTEMS ON.
UH, HELLO?
FRIDAY?
HELLO, COLONEL RHODES...


WHEN TONY STARK SENT YOU HERE, WAS IT OUT OF COWARDICE OR DISRESPECT?
NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND THE QUESTION.
PROBABLY A LANGUAGE THING.
SO LET'S TRY... HI.
WHO ARE YOU?
SENDING A MILITARY LACKEY TO DO HIS WORK.
AND YOU, ACCORDING TO THE INTERNET, BEING A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF HIS...
...IT SEEMS HE DOES NOT RESPECT YOU AS MUCH AS YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT.
IT ALL SEEMS LIKE AN ACT FILLED WITH COWARDICE.
I'M GLAD YOU KNOW I'M A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY...
...IT MAKES IT LESS AWKWARD FOR ME TO HAVE TO TELL YOU YOU'VE KIDNAPPED A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND PRETTY MUCH SCREWED YOURSELF.
IT DOES NOT BOTHER YOU THAT YOU WILL DIE TONIGHT BECAUSE OF TONY STARK'S ARROGANCE?
I'D FEEL BETTER IF I HAD ANY IDEA WHO *YOU* WERE.
ALSO, NO DISRESPECT TO YOU, BUT IS YOUR MOTHER OR FATHER HERE?
THEY DIED...
...IN A MORE NOBLE FASHION THAN YOU WILL.
CRK
UH-OH.
UM...
OKAY.
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
BECAUSE IT'S KIND OF SORT OF TECHNICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
CLEARLY, IT IS NOT.


HEY!
OW...
THAT'S GOING TO LEAVE A MARK.
OKAY, SO I FEEL WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT AND I JUST--
UH-HUH.


I AM TOMOE.
AND YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR DEPTH, COLONEL.
YOU WALKED INTO OUR WORLD WITHOUT KNOWING WHO WE ARE OR WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF...
YOU WILL TELL US THINGS.
AND IF YOU DO NOT...YOU WILL DIE FOR YOUR AND STARK'S HUBRIS.


"AND WHEN TONY STARK COMES LOOKING FOR YOU...
"...HE WILL DISCOVER HE HAS CAUSED HIS FRIEND'S DEATH.
HOLLYWOOD
"I WONDER, WITH **HIS** DYING BREATH...
"...IF HE WILL CRY FOR YOU."
CLANG CLANK
"OH MY GOD!
"IT'S, LIKE, THREE IN THE MORNING."


MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.
SIMMONS HALL.
BANG
CLANG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?
ZZZIII
CLANG
THUMP THUMP THUMP
WHAT *IS* SHE DOING IN THERE?
SHE SHOULDN'T EVEN *BE* HERE.
SHE'S, LIKE, ELEVEN YEARS OLD.
ANSWER THE DOOR!
WE *KNOW* YOU'RE IN THERE, RIRI!
WHAT DO YOU WANT? IT'S THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING!
WHATEVER, DISNEY CHANNEL.
WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING IN THERE...DO IT *QUIETER.*
SLAM
YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING ME.
KID'S A REAL PIECE OF WORK.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SOCK IT TO
SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

"WHO'S THAT LADY?" you ask? Well, I'm not going to tell you! (Mostly because I'm just an assistant, and listen, they don't tell me everything.) You just have to keep reading and find out. (Like me. Sob.) But I can answer your OTHER questions, so let's get to it!

Hi!

I am a huge Iron Man fan. He's been my favorite hero since I was ten because of his willingness to do whatever he can to help people. The All-New, All-Different INVINCIBLE IRON MAN arc has gotten me so excited for Bendis and Marquez take on the character, and to see what crazy adventures they'll go on with him. That brings me to my main point. My school has a Christmas ball coming up soon where there is food, dancing, and fancy people (who's fancier than Tony Stark?). My roommate said that if I loved Tony Stark so much I should ask him to be my date, so here we are.

Tony Stark, will you go to the Christmas Ball with me? Pretty Please?

Anna Salone

As usual, the very fancy Tony Stark read this too late to do anything about it, but if you've got another school dance, he'll be there! If he forgets, Friday has been given the ability to zap him. Just for you!

Hello to the marvelous makers of Marvel Comics, my name is Henry and I just read INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #4 and I absolutely love the way his armor can take different forms, but the samurai armor blew me away. I couldn't stop looking at it, and thinking about how it had a great resemblance to the armor of the Shredder of the 2003 TMNT cartoon. The electric sword was another great piece because it looked like the Sword of Tengu the Shredder used. Would be cool to see this happen in the movies, also keep up the good work on the comic, thanks.

Harry Spruill

BLESS YOU, MY FRIEND, FOR REMINDING ME OF MY FAVORITE SHOW EVER. The resemblance to the Shredder and the Sword of Tengu was accidental, I'm pretty sure, but now I'm basically obligated to ditch my boyfriend all weekend to binge-watch the 2003 Ninja Turtles cartoon and revisit my childhood so, uh. Thanks for ruining my relationship, I guess?

Dear Alanna and Co.,

I'm loving INVINCIBLE IRON MAN! The art and story combined have made it one of my favorite comics to date, and I'm anxiously awaiting more to read (thanks Bendis, Marquez, and Ponsor!) I hope we get to see more of Whitney after her dramatic reveal in #5. Speaking of ladies...this comic has a great cast of them so far! I'm looking forward to seeing more of Amara, and Tony and Amara, even if I feel slightly bad for her having to deal with Tony Stark: The Undatable Human Disaster who broke into her office after one date. (I love you Tony! I'm just kidding! Sort of...)

Karina Gruesz

Ha! When you put it that way, Tony does sound like a bit of a creep, huh? He didn't even break into her office WITH FLOWERS!

(Which is what I will probably have to do to get my boyfriend back after he dumps me for watching too much Ninja Turtles...)

Dear Alanna,

I'm a new fan. I've loved the IRON MAN films for a long time, but I was not interested in comics, because I cannot associate comics with film. Especially since I saw ULTIMATE IRON MAN, it just felt very strange. But the new universe is really GREAT. I have read the first five issues, and the story and art is beyond my imagination. Friday is very cute, and Doom and Dr. Strange are so interesting. I will remember Bendis and also compliment Marquez and Ponsor. The art style is very good-looking.

English is not my mother tongue, Please forgive my clumsy expressions.

An Asian fan,
Lizzie Chang

Glad you like the comic, Lizzie! It's nice to hear that fans of the MCU are finding comics they can enjoy as well. And thanks for writing us a letter even though English is a SUPER annoying language!

Bendis and IRON MAN staff,

I love the new book, but I think adding MJ is a weird move.

Why take her way from the SPIDER-MAN world?

Marcelo Bertoni

THEY WEREN'T TREATING HER RIGHT, GOSH DARNIT.

NO ONE PUTS MJ IN A CORNER.

Brian, David, and Justin:

I'm a little behind on my comic reading, so I just read INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #4--I just wanted to say to Max (the kid featured in that issue) that he rocks, and to keep fighting!!! CHOP is a great organization that does great stuff, and Max is a truly great kid--Max, you make Iron Man proud.

Also, Brian, I've really been missing your ALL-NEW/UNCANNY X-MEN runs, but Iron Man has been a fun substitute so far. Can't wait until the start of INTERNATIONAL. Keep up the good work!

Drew Cornwall

Thanks Drew, and everyone who reached out since Iron Max made his Marvel debut. Max's story made international news thanks to his appearance in issue #4--and on the Nightly News! He asked, "if Tony Stark dies, will Marvel make ME Iron Man?" Let's hope not, kid. –Dan (Max's dad)

Hey, Civil War II is coming up, Max. Anything could happen!

I would like to know where we can send contributions in Max Levy's name to the 'Hearts 4 Hemophilia' project mentioned in the issue #4 letters page.

The comic rocks!!

Thanks,
Mark Galliers

Hey, Mark! You can go to Hearts4Hemophilia.org to donate to Max's charity!

Dear Bendis, Marquez, and Ponsor,

Thank you so much for such an amazing first arc to INVINCIBLE IRON MAN! Issue #1 was actually the first comic book I have ever purchased in my life and I do not regret it one bit...well, maybe my wallet does, but that is beside the point. I must say it has totally been worth it, especially with "awesome facial hair bros" which had me laughing up a storm. Keep up the amazing work. I look forward to the next arc, and beyond!

P.S.: It would be great to see more guest appearances of Doctor Cryptic in future issues.

A new comic book fan,
Richard Guevara

Welcome to comics, Richard! Hope this is just the first of many!

Dear INVINCIBLE IRON MAN team,

I just finished INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #5 and I love it! I enjoy it much better than SUPERIOR IRON MAN (that just frustrted me). But I am wondering, is Pepper coming back to IRON MAN? Also, is Madame Masque resolved now? If so, what does Marvel plan for Tony? I can't wait till the next issue!

Ashley Laub

Who's to say that a certain someone won't try to poach Tony's redheaded lady friend?

And on that enigmatic note, I leave you! Keep sending in your letters, and if you didn't see yours this time, check in next time when I'll hopefully be able to get around to it! You know, if I'm not still too busy marathoning kid's cartoons and lamenting the death of my childhood.

See you next month, Shell-Heads!

-The Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT ISSUE:

HERE'S SPIDEY!

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR II
#8
!
MARVEL
BENDIS • DEODATO • MARTIN
INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN™

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION

Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger **IRON MAN.**

FRIDAY'S LOG:

RECENTLY COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS:

- SEND RHODEY, A.K.A. WAR MACHINE, A.K.A. YOUR "#1 BFF" TO JAPAN TO TRACK DOWN THE BIOHACK NINJAS THAT WERE TRAILING MADAME MASQUE.
- DO NOT FREAK OUT ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOUR "#1 BFF" IS NOW MISSING IN JAPAN.

IN-PROGRESS AGENDA ITEMS:

- TEAM UP WITH SPIDER-MAN TO FIND AND RESCUE RHODEY. [ALSO: BE NICE TO SPIDER-MAN, TONY. HE'S HELPING.]
- FIND OUT WHY FORMER CLUB OWNER AND CURRENT EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/LIFE COACH MARY JANE WATSON HAS PETER PARKER'S EMERGENCY NUMBER.

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS WRITER
MIKE DEODATO ARTIST
FRANK MARTIN COLOR ARTIST
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER & PRODUCTION
MIKE DEODATO & FRANK MARTIN COVER ARTISTS
ALANNA SMITH ASSISTANT EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY

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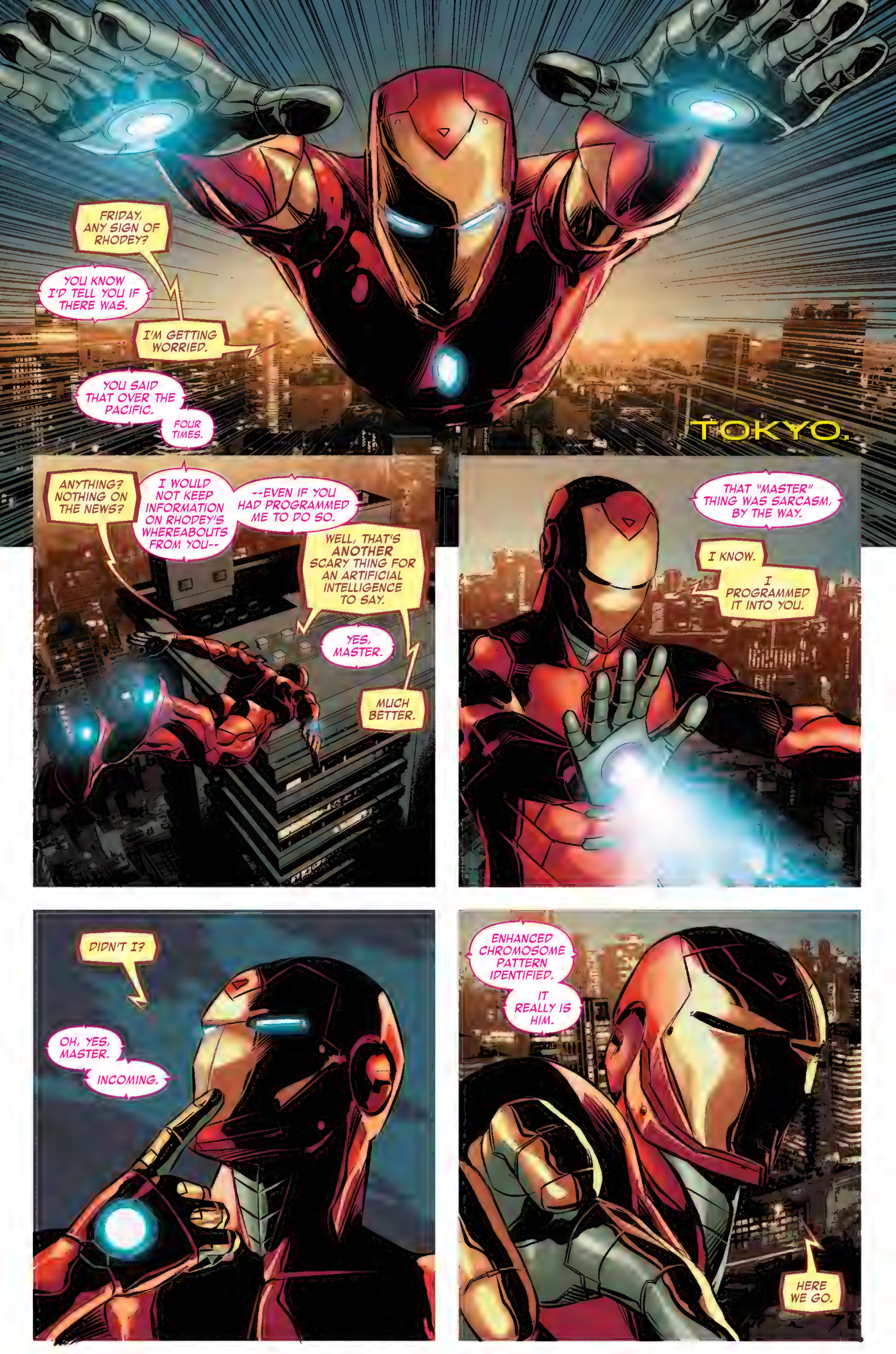
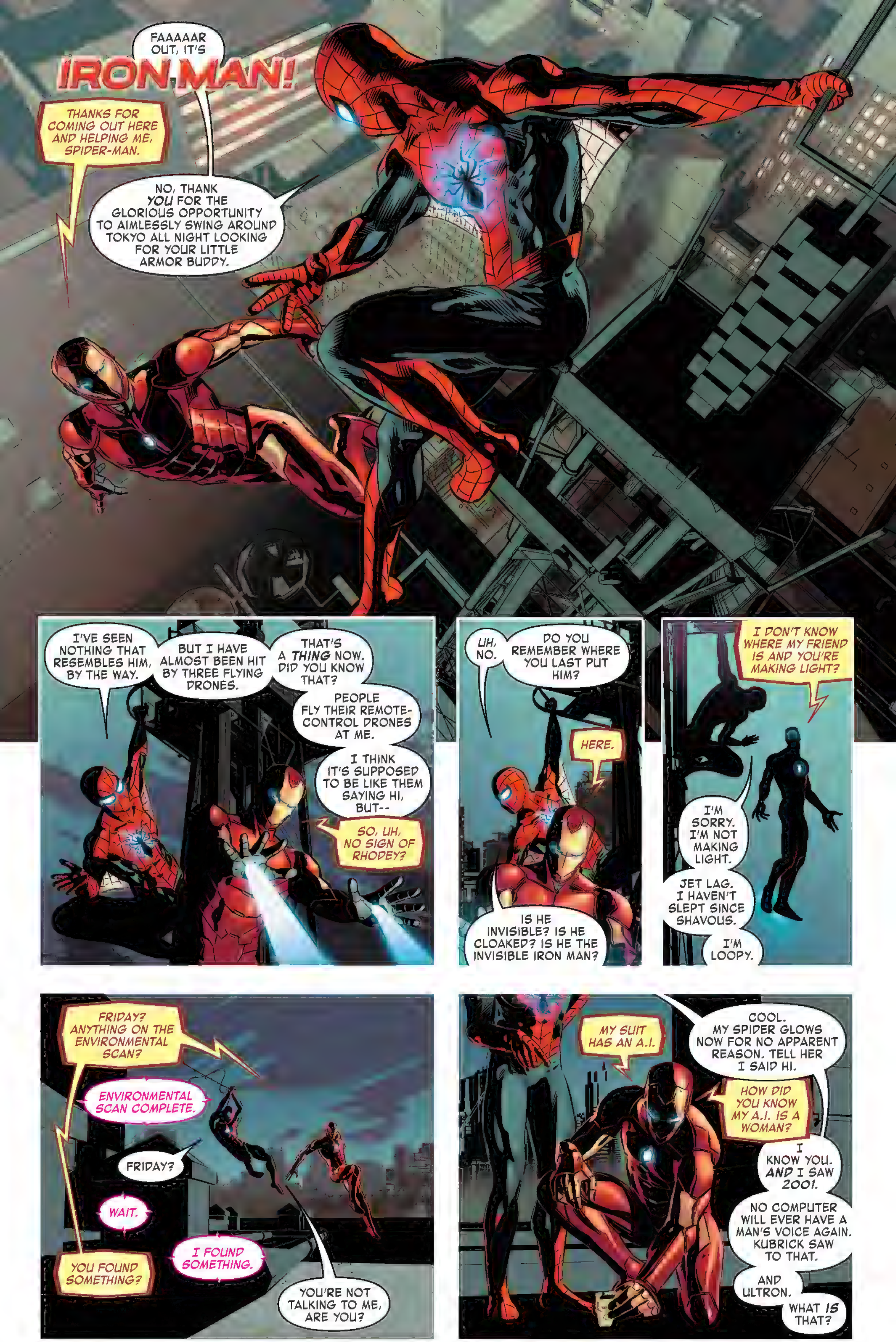
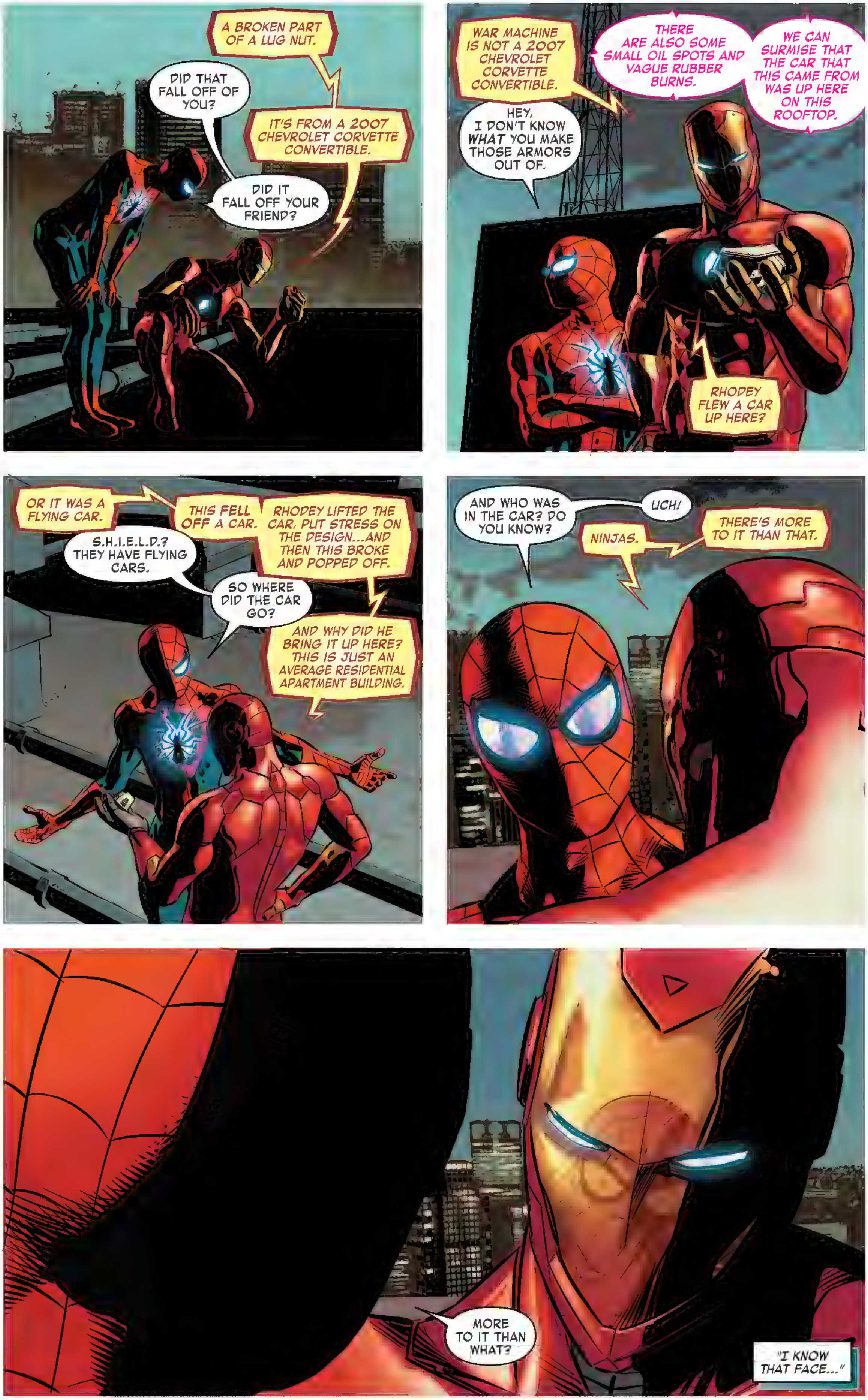
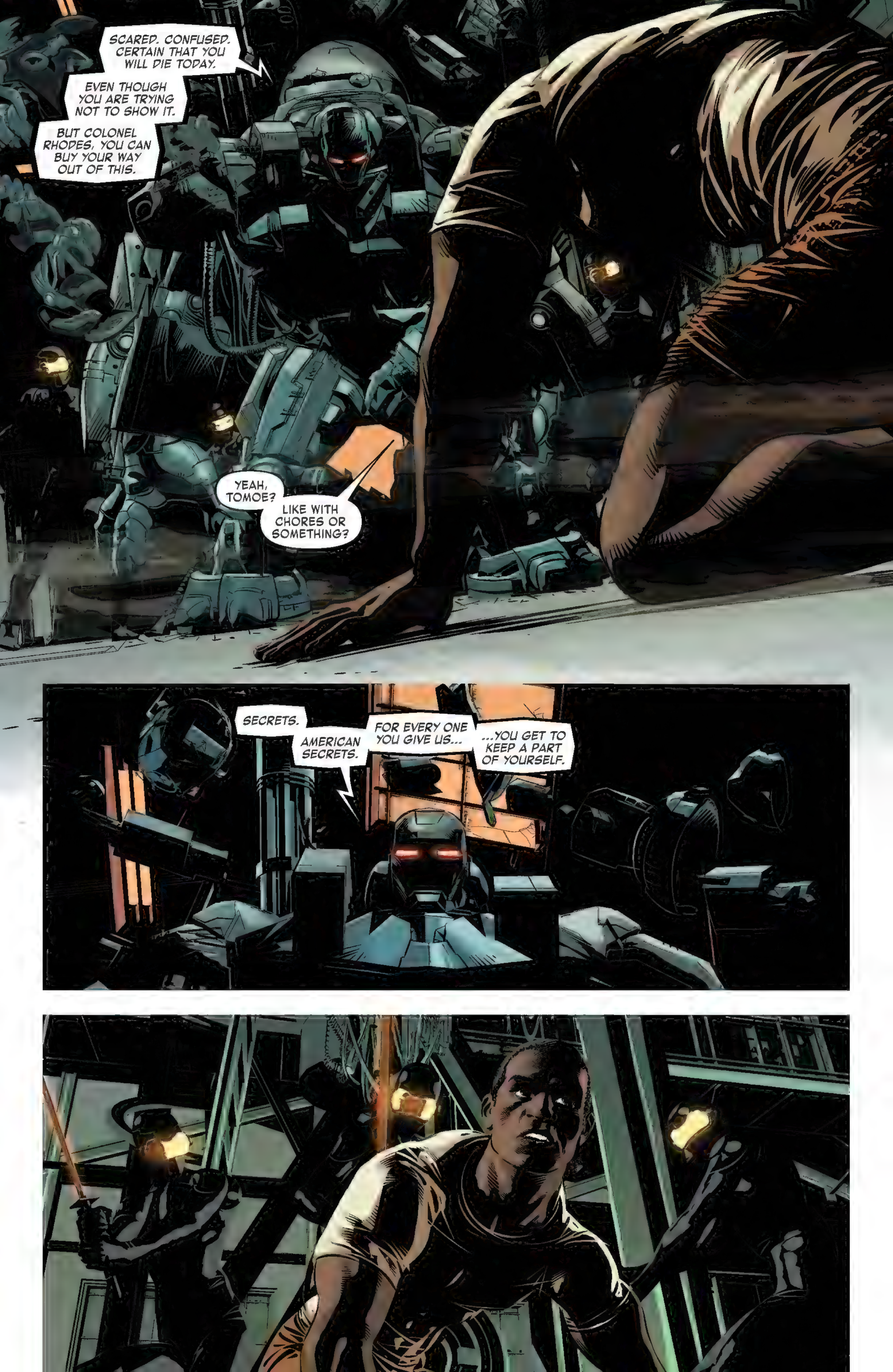
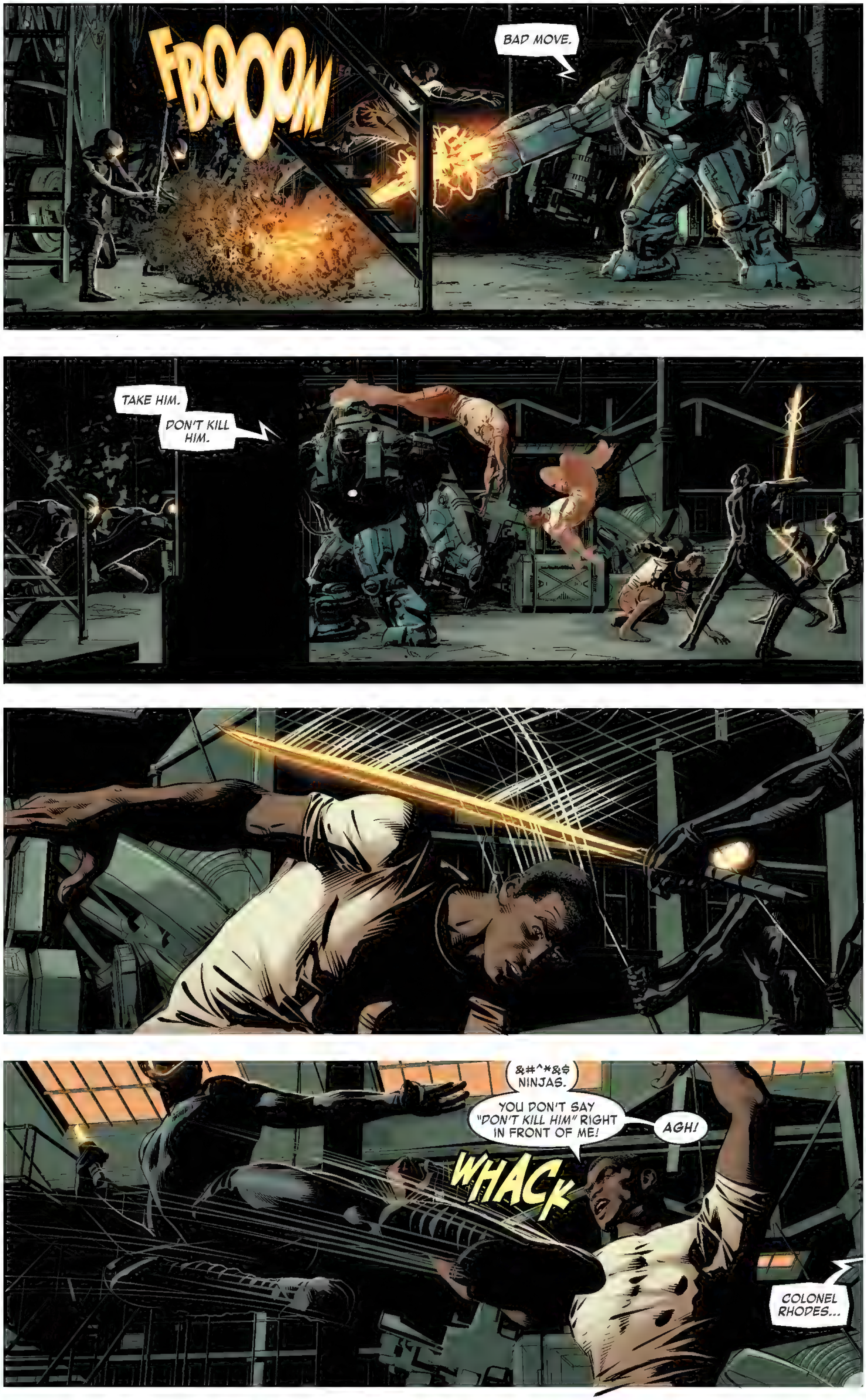
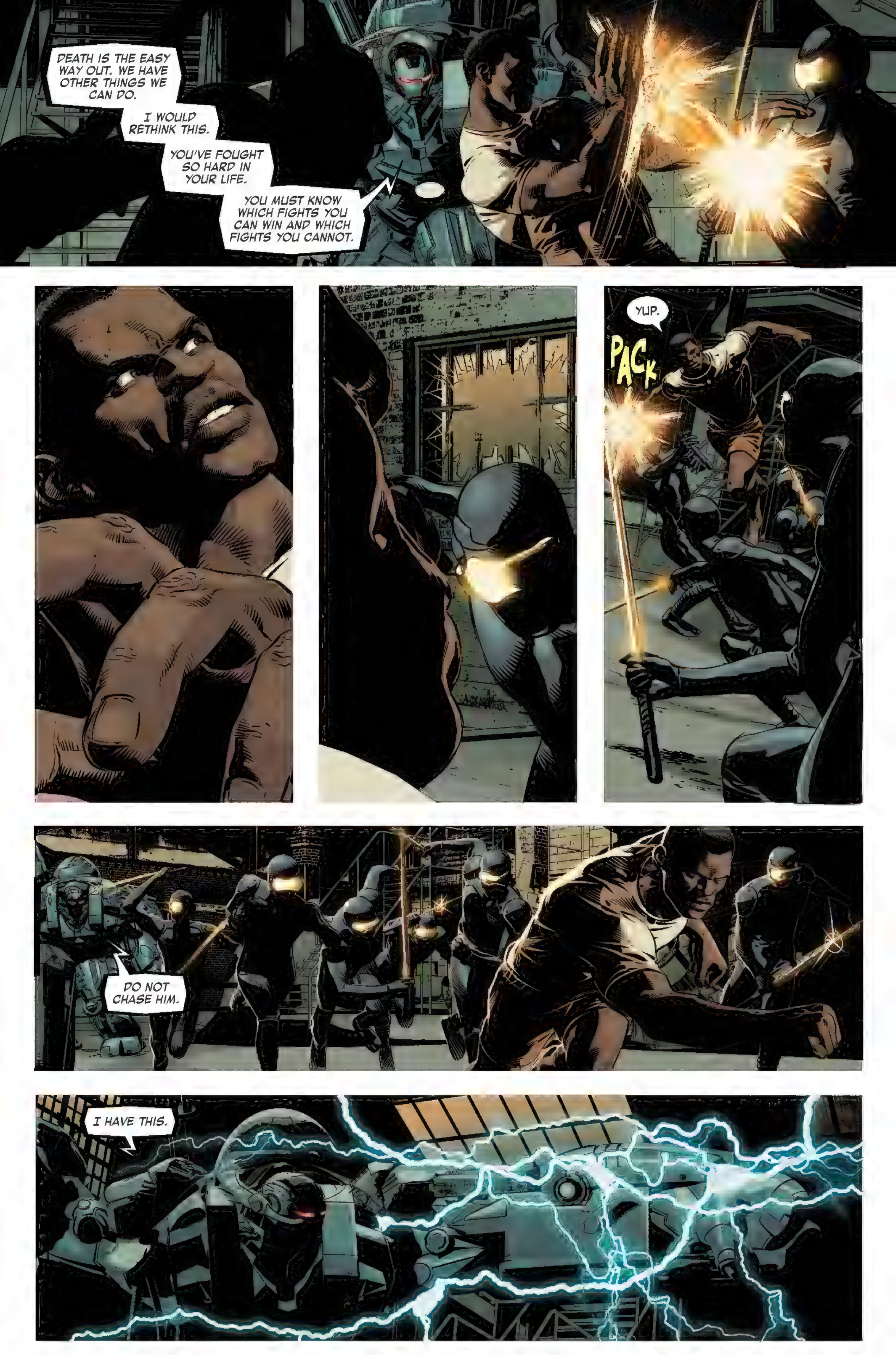

FRIDAY, ANY SIGN OF RHODEY?
YOU KNOW I'D TELL YOU IF THERE WAS.
I'M GETTING WORRIED.
YOU SAID THAT OVER THE PACIFIC.
FOUR TIMES.
TOKYO.
ANYTHING? NOTHING ON THE NEWS?
I WOULD NOT KEEP INFORMATION ON RHODEY'S WHEREABOUTS FROM YOU--
--EVEN IF YOU HAD PROGRAMMED ME TO DO SO.
WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER SCARY THING FOR AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO SAY.
YES, MASTER.
MUCH BETTER.
THAT "MASTER" THING WAS SARCASM, BY THE WAY.
I KNOW.
I PROGRAMMED IT INTO YOU.
DIDN'T I?
OH, YES, MASTER.
INCOMING.
ENHANCED CHROMOSOME PATTERN IDENTIFIED.
IT REALLY IS HIM.
HERE WE GO.

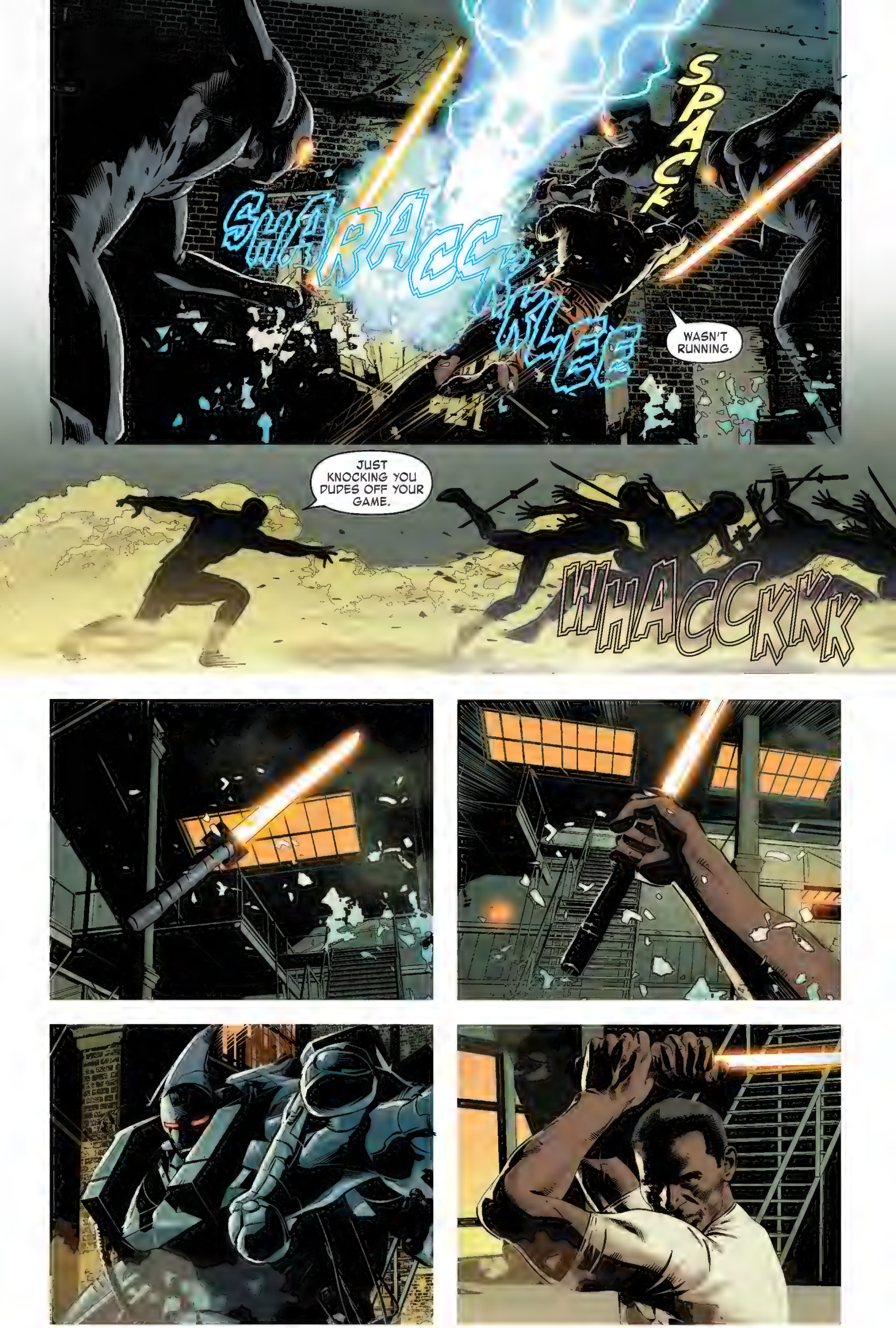

FAAAAAR OUT, IT'S
IRON MAN!
THANKS FOR COMING OUT HERE AND HELPING ME, SPIDER-MAN.
NO, THANK *YOU* FOR THE GLORIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO AIMLESSLY SWING AROUND TOKYO ALL NIGHT LOOKING FOR YOUR LITTLE ARMOR BUDDY.
I'VE SEEN NOTHING THAT RESEMBLES HIM, BY THE WAY.
BUT I HAVE ALMOST BEEN HIT BY THREE FLYING DRONES.
THAT'S A *THING* NOW. DID YOU KNOW THAT?
PEOPLE FLY THEIR REMOTE-CONTROL DRONES AT ME.
I THINK IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THEM SAYING HI, BUT--
SO, UH, NO SIGN OF RHODEY?
UH, NO.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU LAST PUT HIM?
HERE.
IS HE INVISIBLE? IS HE CLOAKED? IS HE THE INVISIBLE IRON MAN?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE MY FRIEND IS AND YOU'RE MAKING LIGHT?
I'M SORRY. I'M NOT MAKING LIGHT.
JET LAG. I HAVEN'T SLEPT SINCE SHAVOUS.
I'M LOOPY.
FRIDAY? ANYTHING ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN?
ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN COMPLETE.
FRIDAY?
WAIT.
I FOUND SOMETHING.
YOU FOUND SOMETHING?
YOU'RE NOT TALKING TO ME, ARE YOU?
MY SUIT HAS AN A.I.
COOL. MY SPIDER GLOWS NOW FOR NO APPARENT REASON. TELL HER I SAID HI.
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY A.I. IS A WOMAN?
I KNOW YOU. *AND* I SAW *2001*.
NO COMPUTER WILL EVER HAVE A MAN'S VOICE AGAIN. KUBRICK SAW TO THAT.
AND ULTRON.
WHAT *IS* THAT?

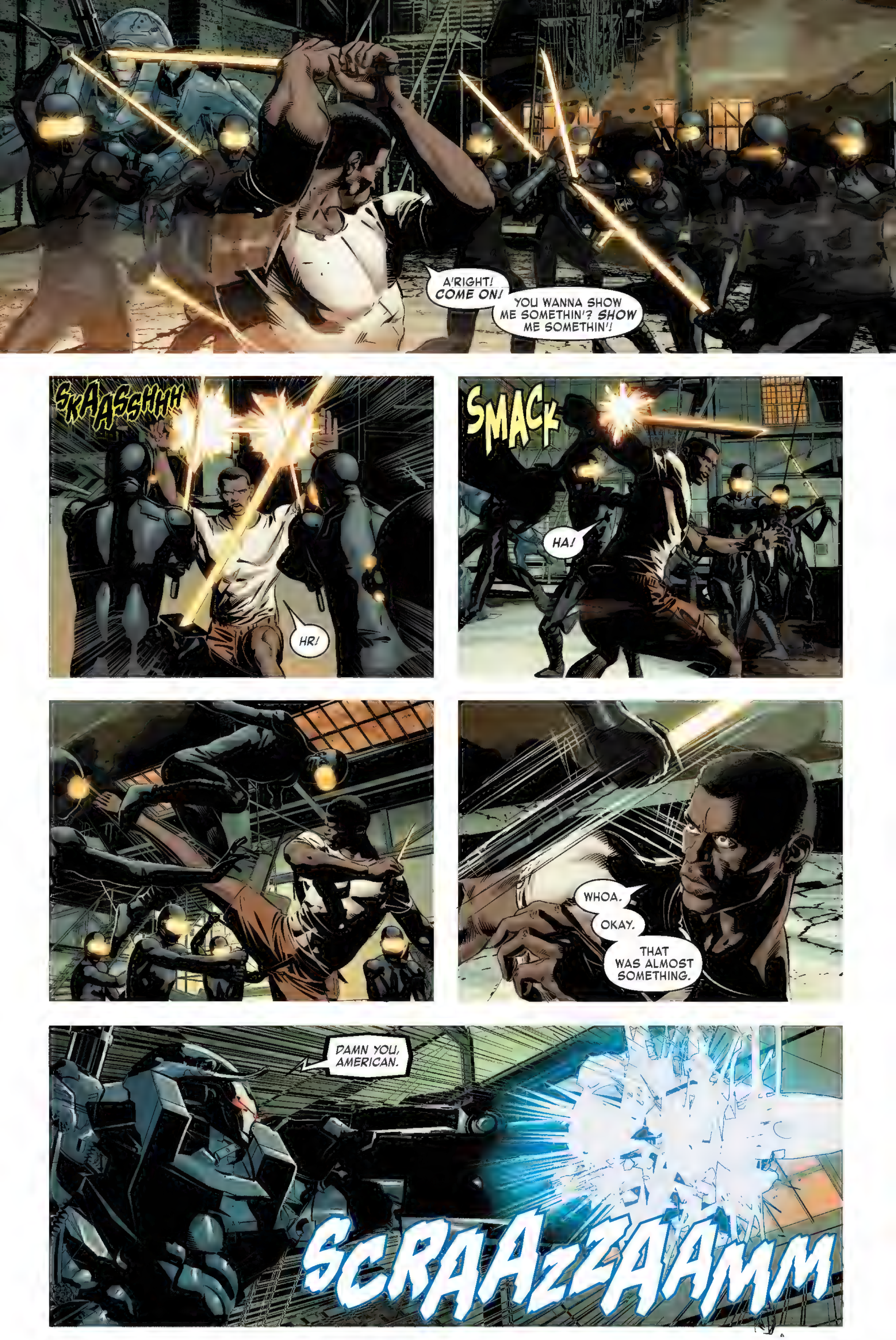

A BROKEN PART OF A LUG NUT.
DID THAT FALL OFF OF YOU?
IT'S FROM A 2007 CHEVROLET CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE.
DID IT FALL OFF YOUR FRIEND?
WAR MACHINE IS NOT A 2007 CHEVROLET CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE.
THERE ARE ALSO SOME SMALL OIL SPOTS AND VAGUE RUBBER BURNS.
WE CAN SURMISE THAT THE CAR THAT THIS CAME FROM WAS UP HERE ON THIS ROOFTOP.
HEY, I DON'T KNOW **WHAT** YOU MAKE THOSE ARMORS OUT OF.
RHODEY FLEW A CAR UP HERE?
OR IT WAS A FLYING CAR.
THIS FELL OFF A CAR.
RHODEY LIFTED THE CAR, PUT STRESS ON THE DESIGN...AND THEN THIS BROKE AND POPPED OFF.
S.H.I.E.L.D.? THEY HAVE FLYING CARS.
SO WHERE DID THE CAR GO?
AND WHY DID HE BRING IT UP HERE? THIS IS JUST AN AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT BUILDING.
AND WHO WAS IN THE CAR? DO YOU KNOW?
UCH!
NINJAS.
THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT.
MORE TO IT THAN WHAT?
"I KNOW THAT FACE..."

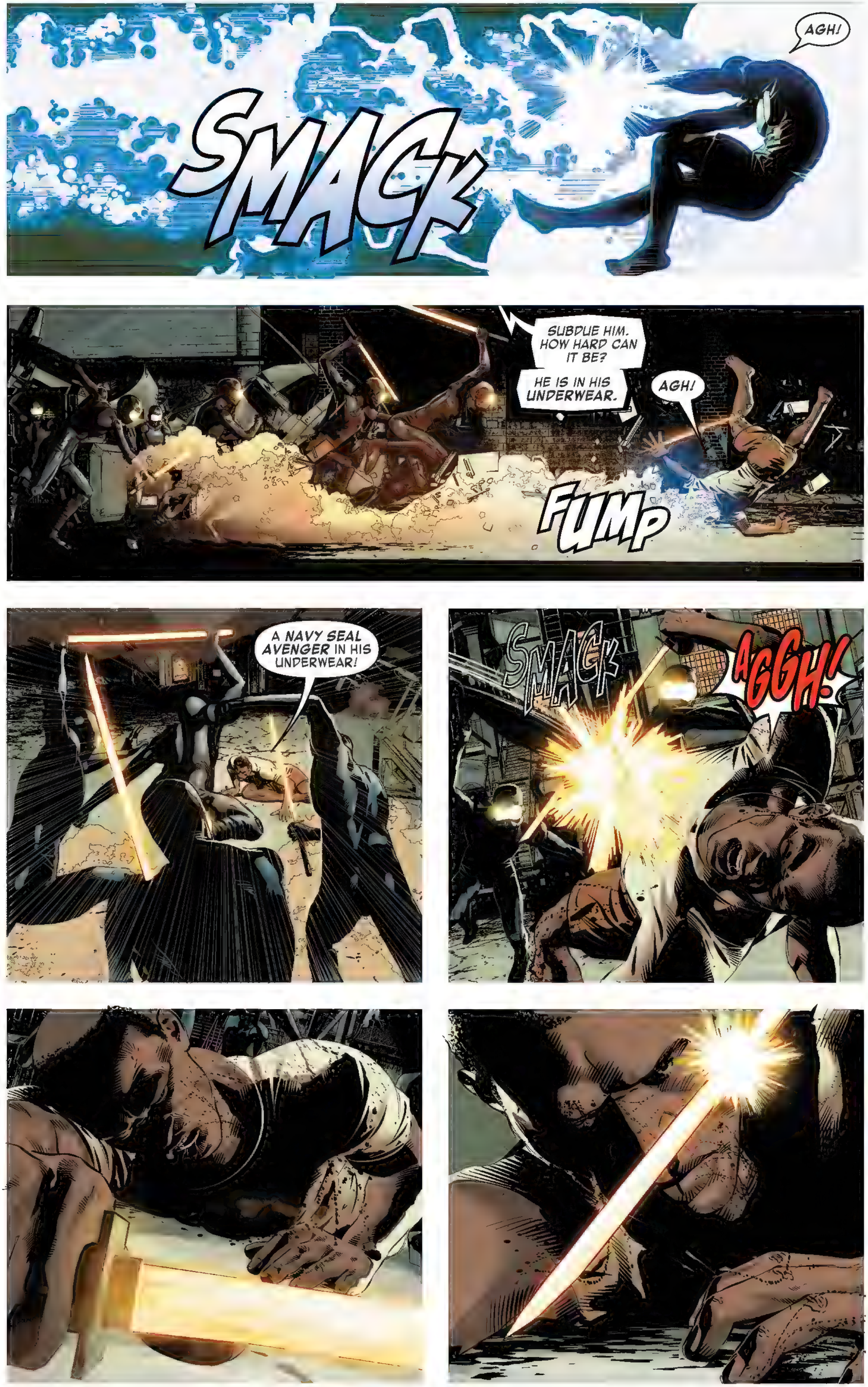

SCARED. CONFUSED. CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL DIE TODAY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE TRYING NOT TO SHOW IT.
BUT COLONEL RHODES, YOU CAN BUY YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS.
YEAH, TOMOE?
LIKE WITH CHORES OR SOMETHING?
SECRETS.
AMERICAN SECRETS.
FOR EVERY ONE YOU GIVE US...
...YOU GET TO KEEP A PART OF YOURSELF.

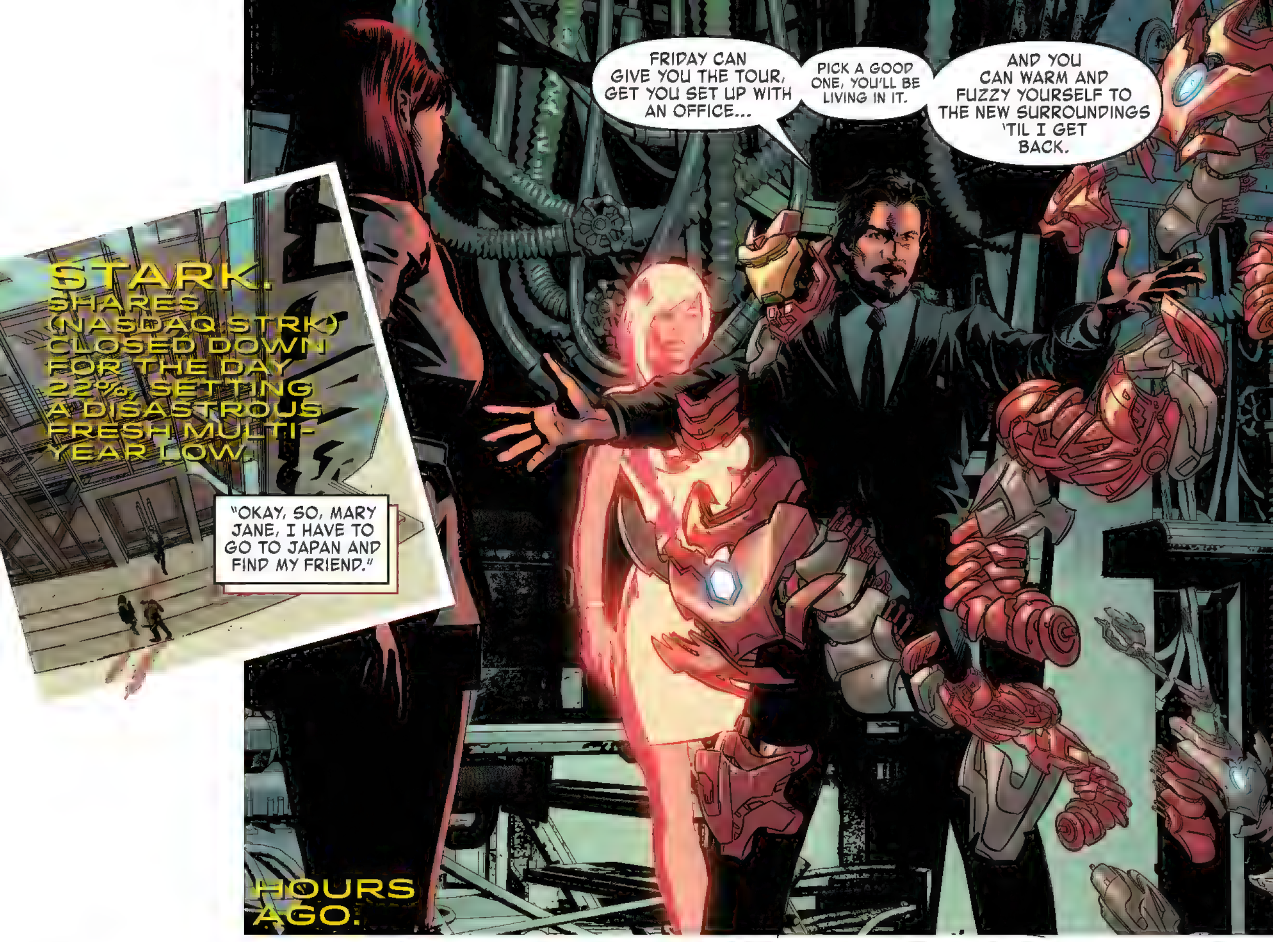

FBOOOM
BAD MOVE.
TAKE HIM.
DON'T KILL HIM.
&#^*&$ NINJAS.
YOU DON'T SAY "DON'T KILL HIM" RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
AGH!
WHACK
COLONEL RHODES...


DEATH IS THE EASY WAY OUT. WE HAVE OTHER THINGS WE CAN DO.
I WOULD RETHINK THIS.
YOU'VE FOUGHT SO HARD IN YOUR LIFE.
YOU MUST KNOW WHICH FIGHTS YOU CAN WIN AND WHICH FIGHTS YOU CANNOT.
YUP.
PACK
DO NOT CHASE HIM.
I HAVE THIS.


SHRACCKLEE
SPACK
WASN'T RUNNING.
JUST KNOCKING YOU DUDES OFF YOUR GAME.
WHACCKKKK

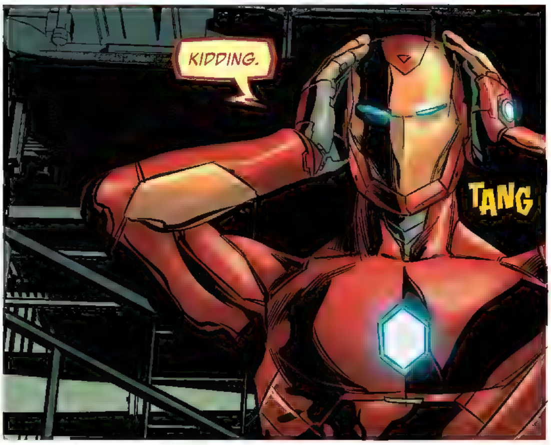

A'RIGHT! COME ON!
YOU WANNA SHOW ME SOMETHIN'? SHOW ME SOMETHIN'!
SKAASSHHH
HR!
SMACK
HA!
WHOA.
OKAY.
THAT WAS ALMOST SOMETHING.
DAMN YOU, AMERICAN.
SCRAAZZAAMM

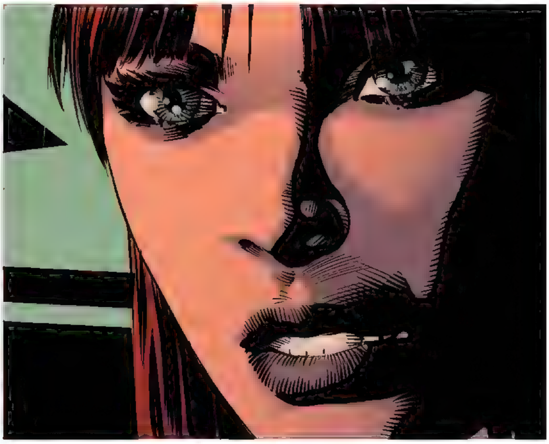

SMACK
AGH!
SUBDUE HIM. HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
HE IS IN HIS UNDERWEAR.
AGH!
FUMP
A NAVY SEAL AVENGER IN HIS UNDERWEAR!
SMACK
AGGH!

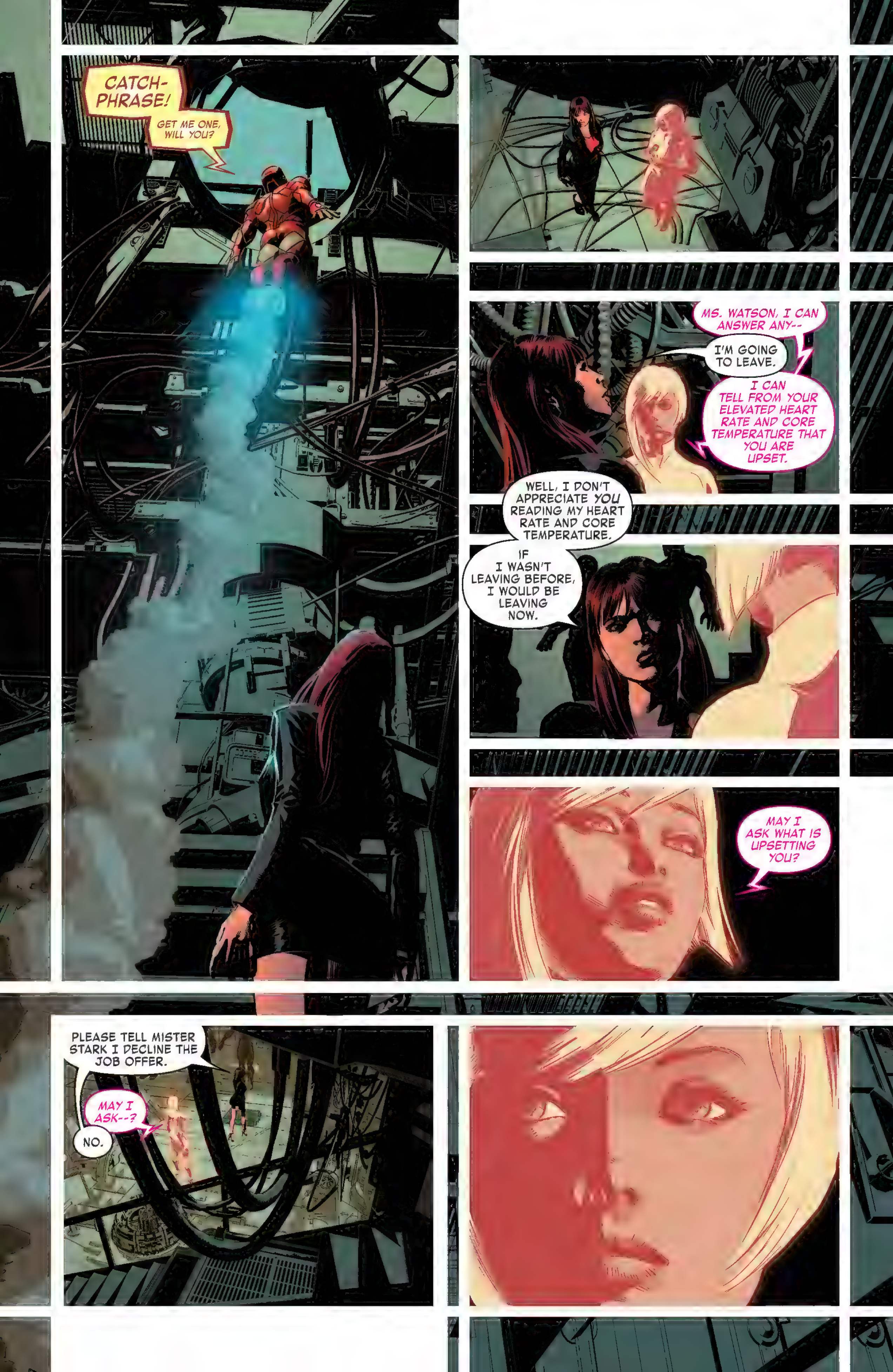

STARK. SHARES (NASDAQ:STRK) CLOSED DOWN FOR THE DAY 22%, SETTING A DISASTROUS FRESH MULTI-YEAR LOW.
"OKAY, SO, MARY JANE, I HAVE TO GO TO JAPAN AND FIND MY FRIEND."
FRIDAY CAN GIVE YOU THE TOUR, GET YOU SET UP WITH AN OFFICE...
PICK A GOOD ONE, YOU'LL BE LIVING IN IT.
AND YOU CAN WARM AND FUZZY YOURSELF TO THE NEW SURROUNDINGS 'TIL I GET BACK.
HOURS AGO.

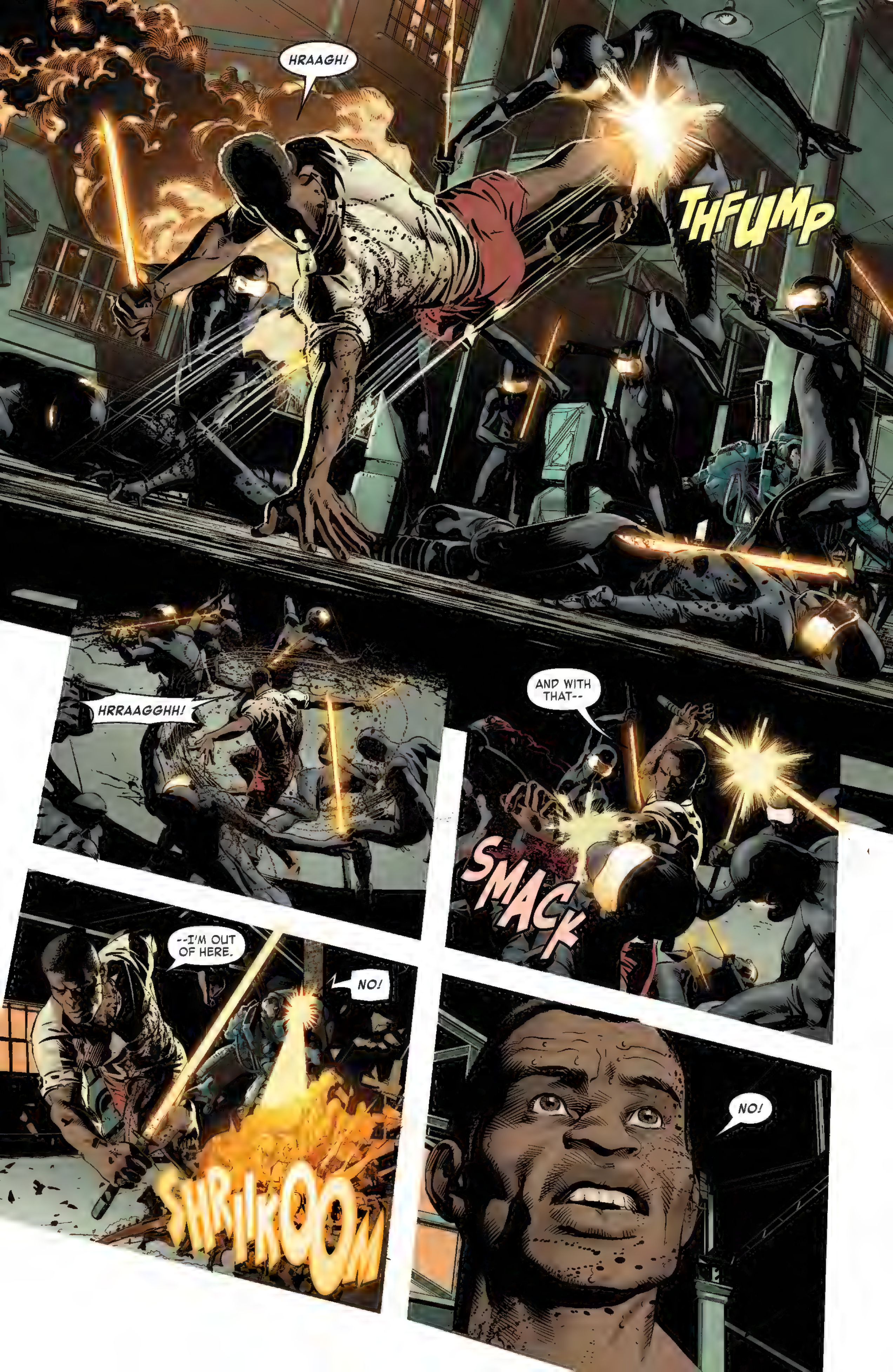
YOU'RE GOING TO, *UM*, LEAVE ME ALONE WITH THE--WITH *HER?*
SHE'S GREAT. SHE KNOWS WHERE EVERYTHING IS.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE *BATHROOMS* ARE.
WHERE DO YOU GO TO THE BATHROOM?

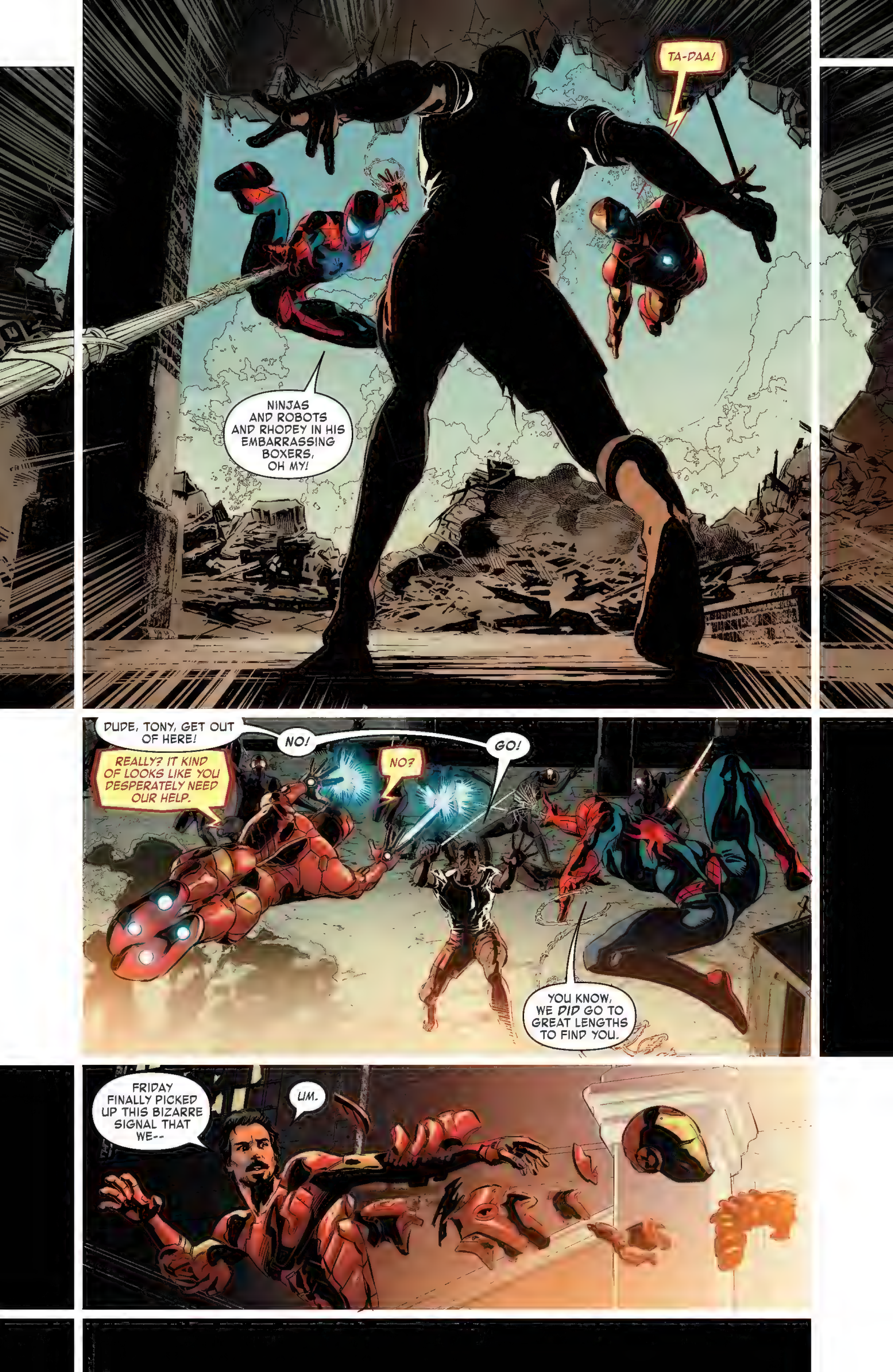
IN THE SUIT.
THAT'S THE ORIGINAL REASON I INVENTED IT.

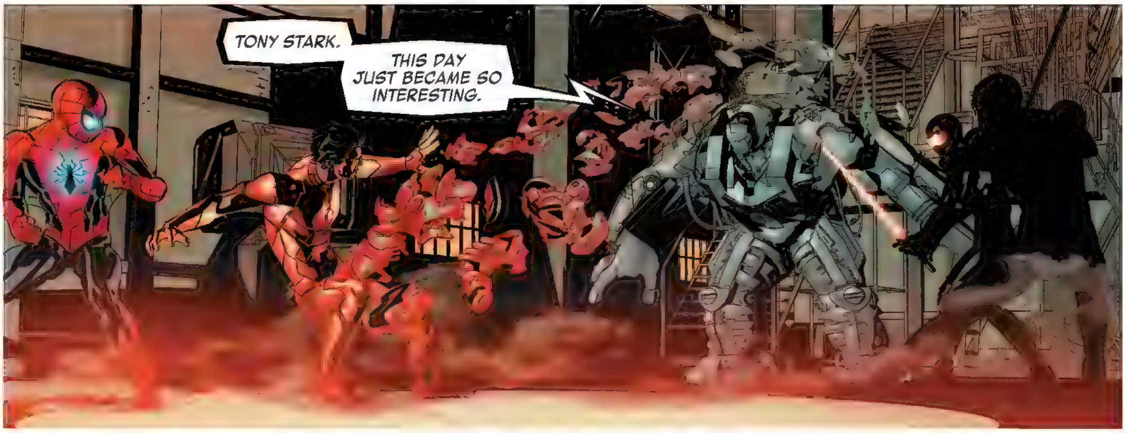

KIDDING.
TANG

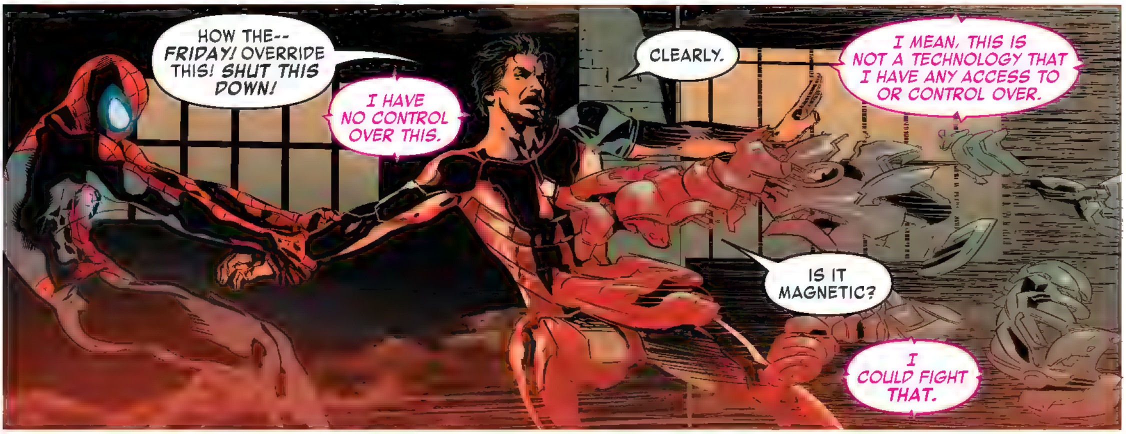


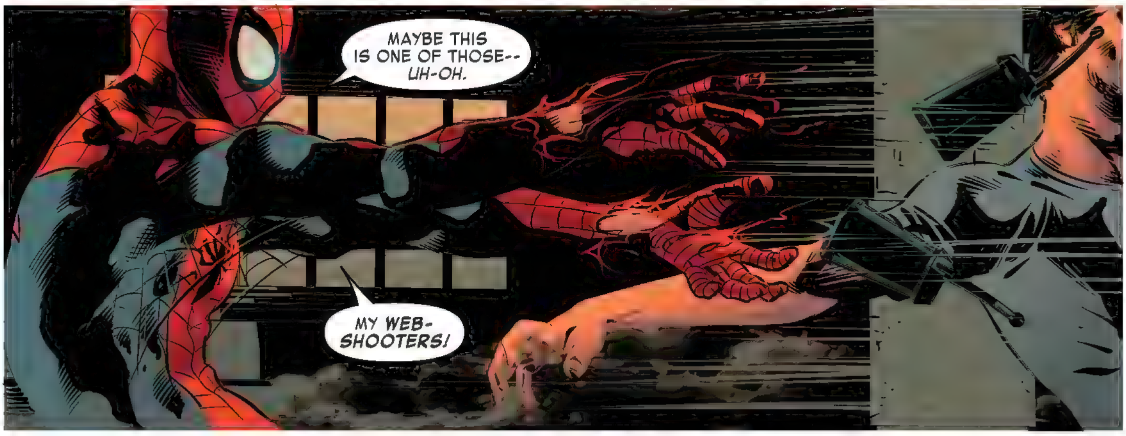

CATCH-PHRASE!
GET ME ONE, WILL YOU?
MS. WATSON, I CAN ANSWER ANY--
I'M GOING TO LEAVE.
I CAN TELL FROM YOUR ELEVATED HEART RATE AND CORE TEMPERATURE THAT YOU ARE UPSET.
WELL, I DON'T APPRECIATE *YOU* READING MY HEART RATE AND CORE TEMPERATURE.
IF I WASN'T LEAVING BEFORE, I WOULD BE LEAVING NOW.
MAY I ASK WHAT IS UPSETTING YOU?
PLEASE TELL MISTER STARK I DECLINE THE JOB OFFER.
MAY I ASK--?
NO.

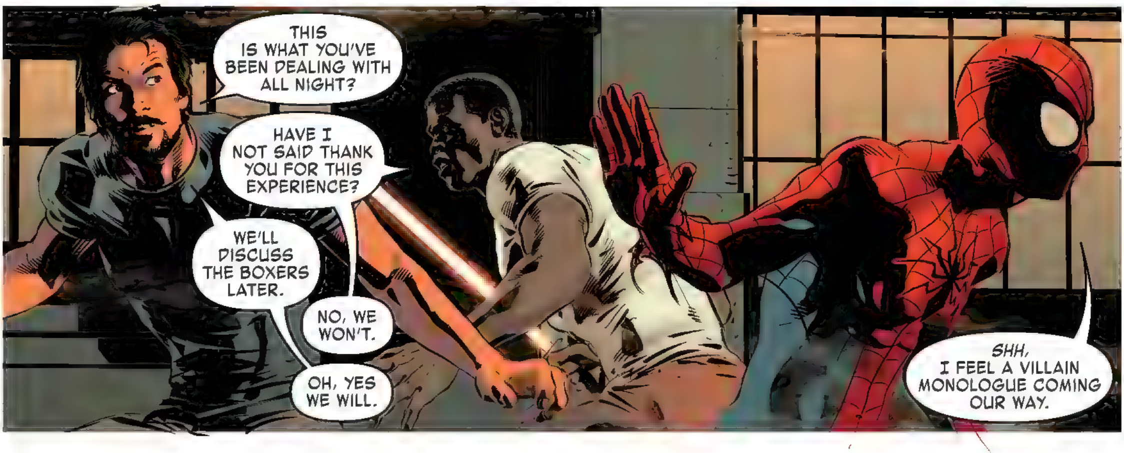

HRAAGH!
THFUMP
HRRAAGGHH!
AND WITH THAT--
SMACK
--I'M OUT OF HERE.
NO!
SHRIIKOOM
NO!

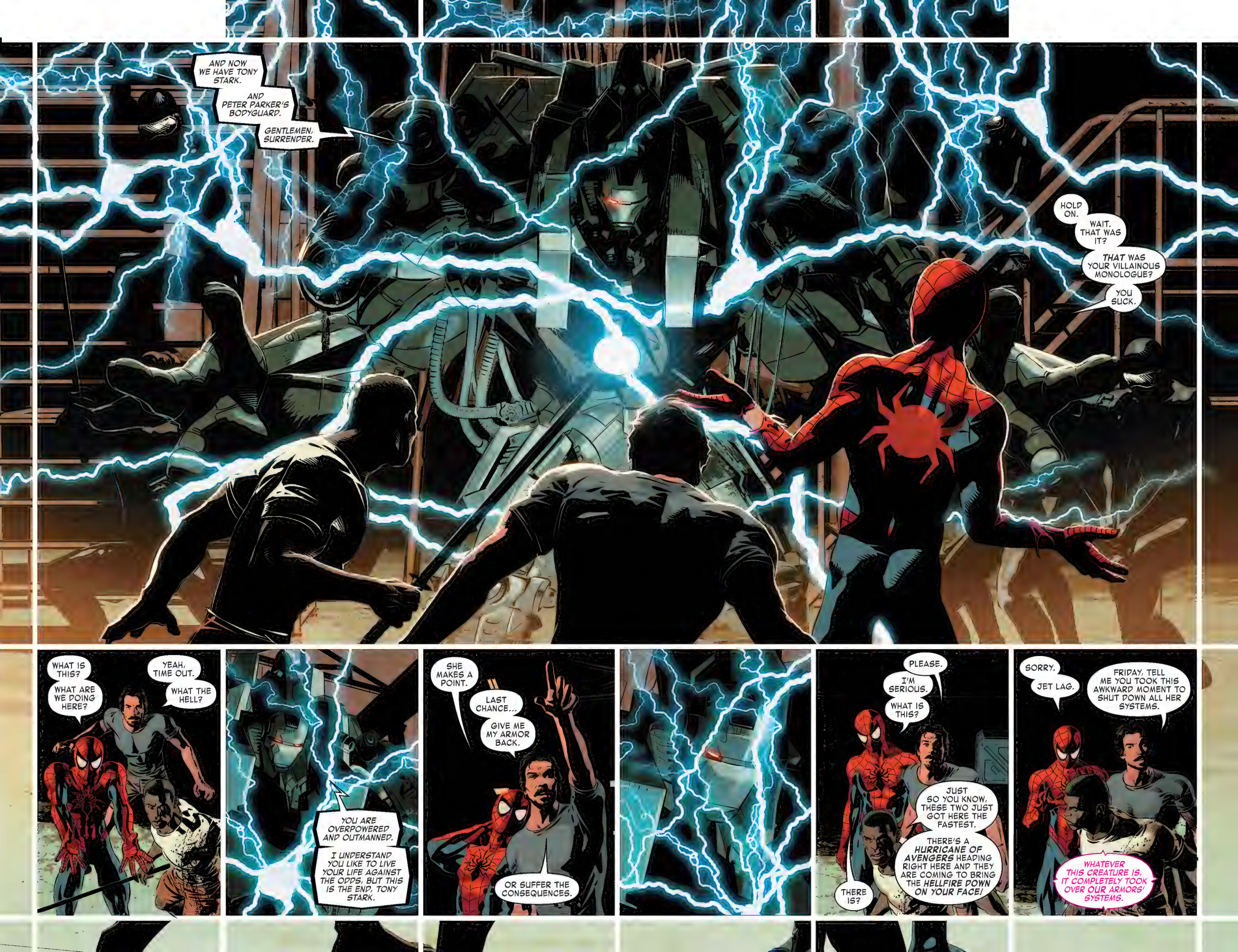

TA-DAA!
NINJAS AND ROBOTS AND RHODEY IN HIS EMBARRASSING BOXERS, OH MY!
DUDE, TONY, GET OUT OF HERE!
REALLY? IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE YOU DESPERATELY NEED OUR HELP.
NO!
NO?
GO!
YOU KNOW, WE *DID* GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO FIND YOU.
FRIDAY FINALLY PICKED UP THIS BIZARRE SIGNAL THAT WE--
UM.

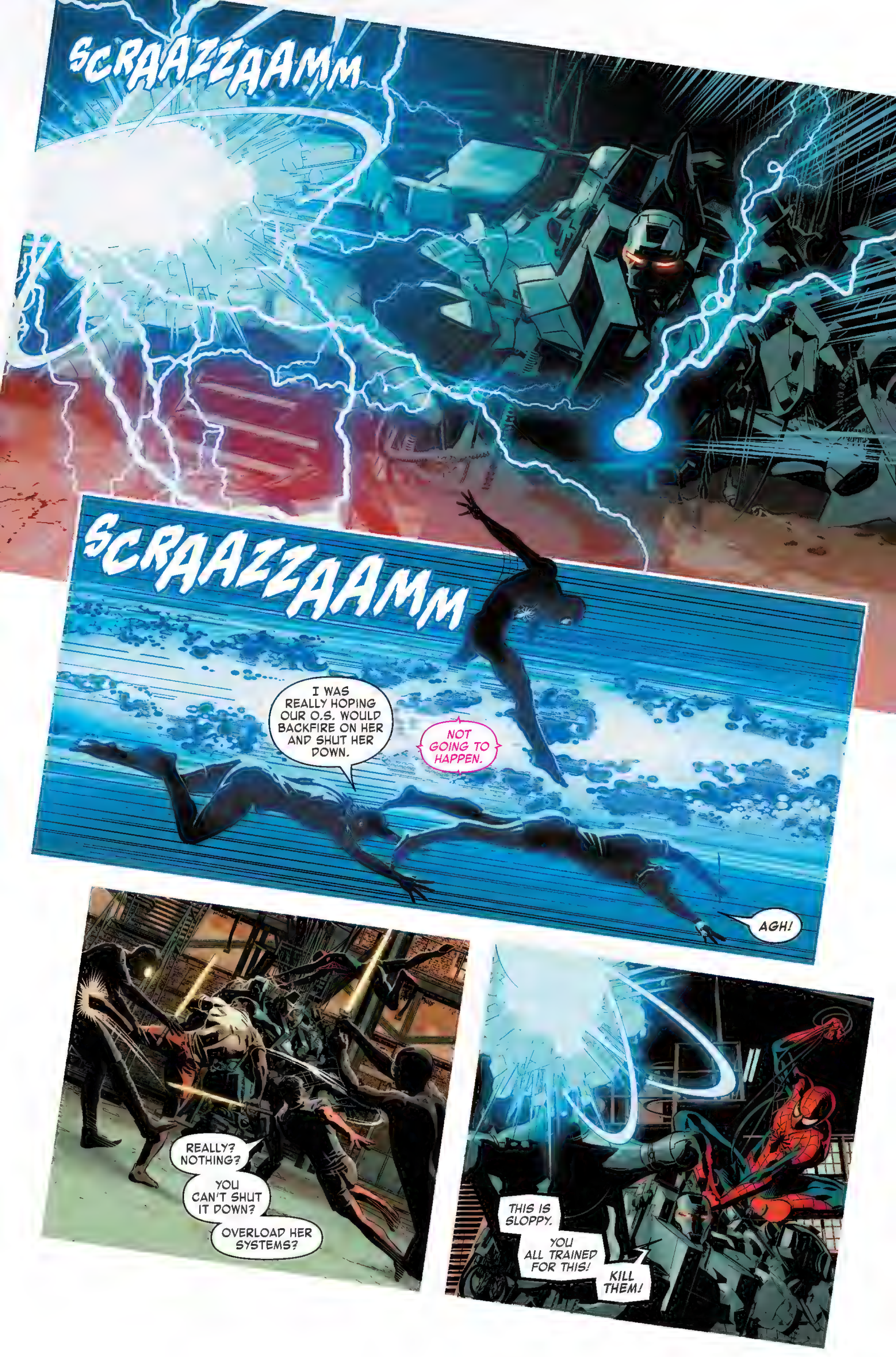

TONY STARK.
THIS DAY JUST BECAME SO INTERESTING.

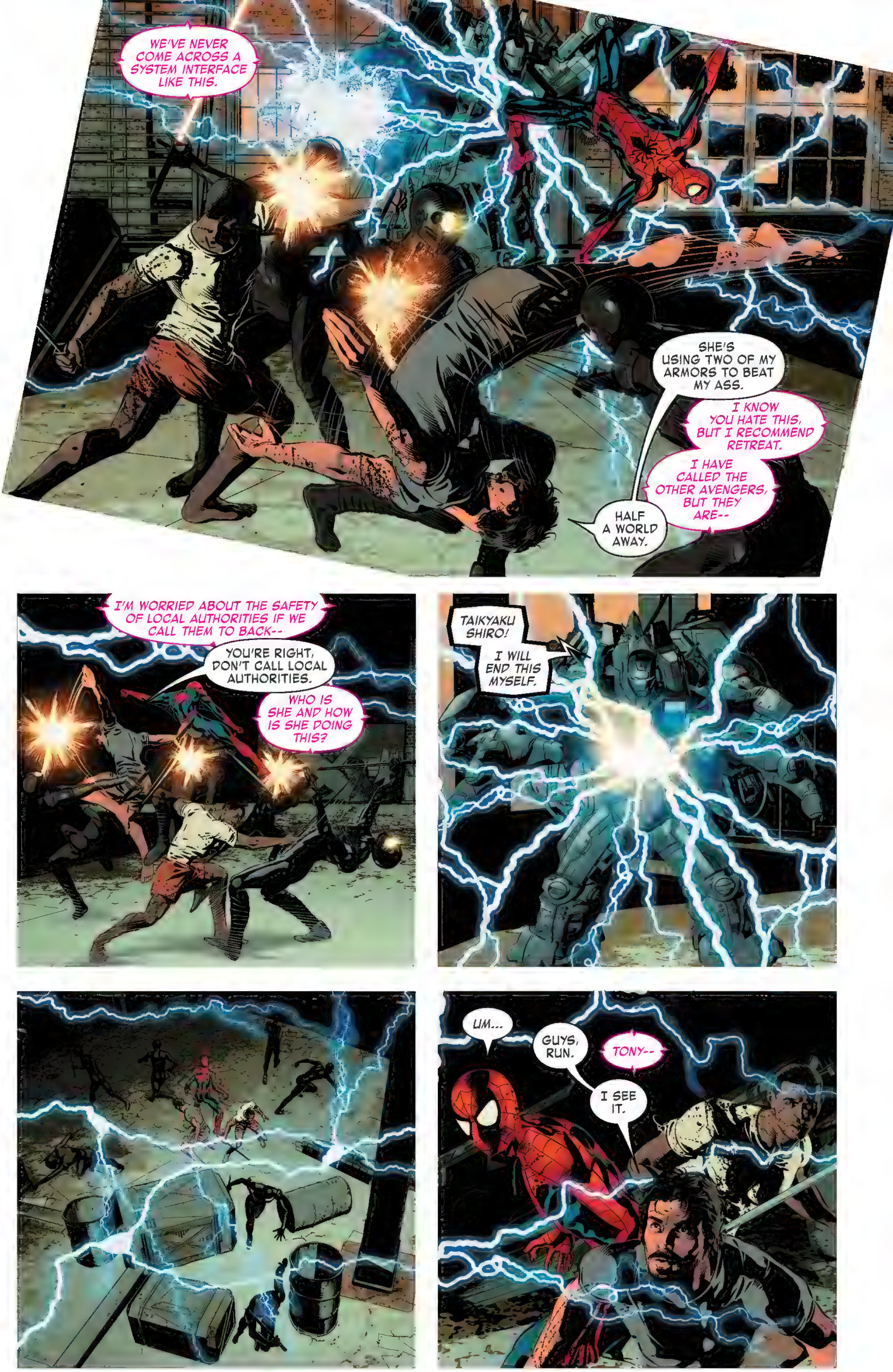

HOW THE-- FRIDAY! OVERRIDE THIS! SHUT THIS DOWN!
I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THIS.
CLEARLY.
I MEAN, THIS IS NOT A TECHNOLOGY THAT I HAVE ANY ACCESS TO OR CONTROL OVER.
IS IT MAGNETIC?
I COULD FIGHT THAT.

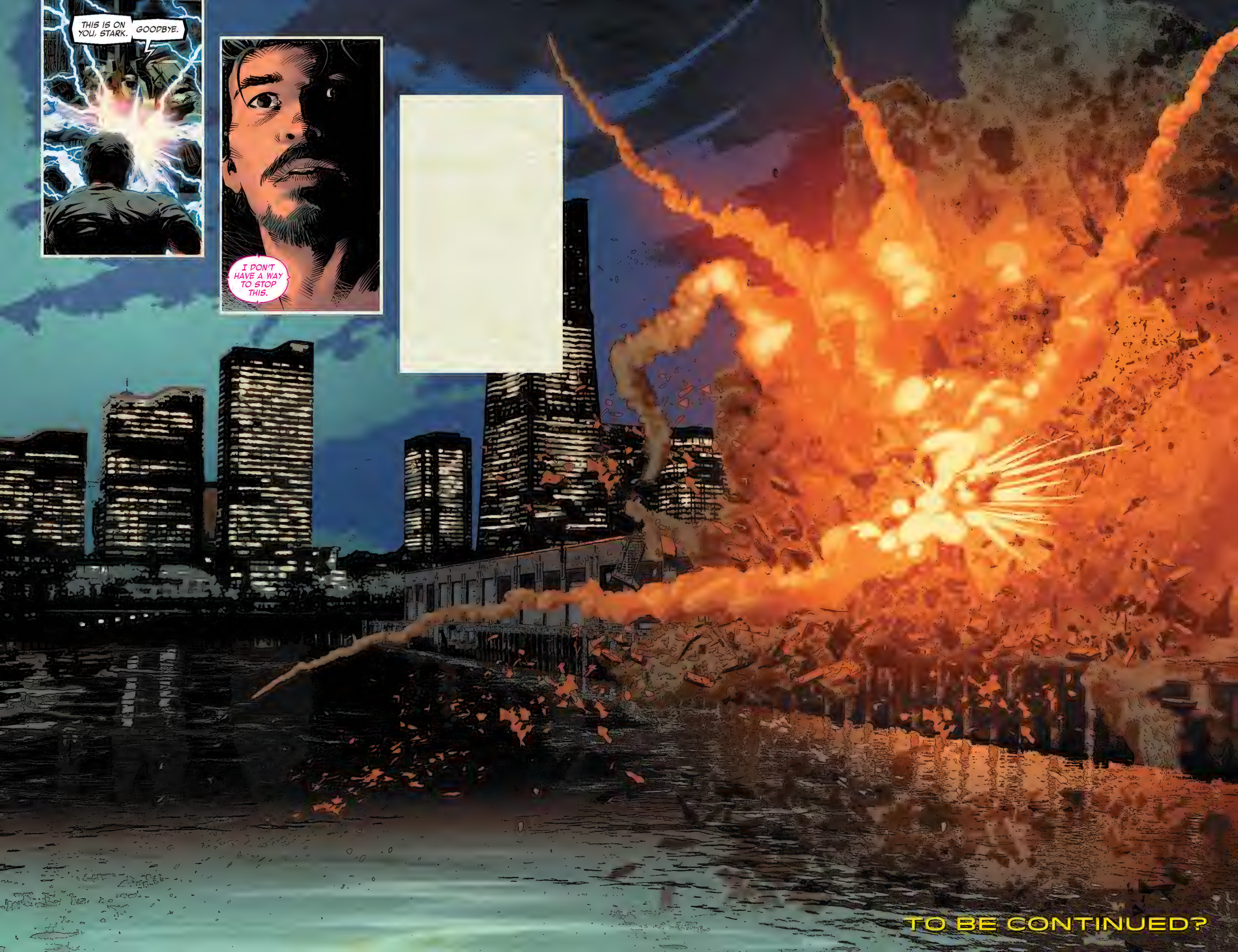

MAYBE THIS IS ONE OF THOSE-- UH-OH.
MY WEB-SHOOTERS!


THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DEALING WITH ALL NIGHT?
HAVE I NOT SAID THANK YOU FOR THIS EXPERIENCE?
WE'LL DISCUSS THE BOXERS LATER.
NO, WE WON'T.
OH, YES WE WILL.
SHH, I FEEL A VILLAIN MONOLOGUE COMING OUR WAY.


AND NOW WE HAVE TONY STARK.
AND PETER PARKER'S BODYGUARD.
GENTLEMEN, SURRENDER.
HOLD ON.
WAIT. THAT WAS IT?
THAT WAS YOUR VILLAINOUS MONOLOGUE?
YOU SUCK.
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
YEAH, TIME OUT.
WHAT THE HELL?
YOU ARE OVERPOWERED AND OUTMANNED.
I UNDERSTAND YOU LIKE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE AGAINST THE ODDS, BUT THIS IS THE END, TONY STARK.
SHE MAKES A POINT.
LAST CHANCE...
GIVE ME MY ARMOR BACK.
OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
PLEASE.
I'M SERIOUS.
WHAT IS THIS?
JUST SO YOU KNOW, THESE TWO JUST GOT HERE THE FASTEST.
THERE'S A *HURRICANE OF AVENGERS* HEADING RIGHT HERE AND THEY ARE COMING TO BRING THE *HELLFIRE DOWN ON YOUR FACE!*
THERE IS?
SORRY.
JET LAG.
FRIDAY, TELL ME YOU TOOK THIS AWKWARD MOMENT TO SHUT DOWN ALL HER SYSTEMS.
WHATEVER THIS CREATURE IS, IT COMPLETELY TOOK OVER OUR ARMORS' SYSTEMS.


SCRAAZZAAMM
SCRAAZZAAMM
I WAS REALLY HOPING OUR O.S. WOULD BACKFIRE ON HER AND SHUT HER DOWN.
NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
AGH!
REALLY? NOTHING?
YOU CAN'T SHUT IT DOWN?
OVERLOAD HER SYSTEMS?
THIS IS SLOPPY.
YOU ALL TRAINED FOR THIS!
KILL THEM!


WE'VE NEVER COME ACROSS A SYSTEM INTERFACE LIKE THIS.
SHE'S USING TWO OF MY ARMORS TO BEAT MY ASS.
I KNOW YOU HATE THIS, BUT I RECOMMEND RETREAT.
I HAVE CALLED THE OTHER AVENGERS, BUT THEY ARE--
HALF A WORLD AWAY.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IF WE CALL THEM TO BACK--
YOU'RE RIGHT, DON'T CALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
WHO IS SHE AND HOW IS SHE DOING THIS?
TAIKYAKU SHIRO!
I WILL END THIS MYSELF.
UM...
GUYS, RUN.
TONY--
I SEE IT.


THIS IS ON YOU, STARK.
GOODBYE.
I DON'T HAVE A WAY TO STOP THIS.
TO BE CONTINUED?

SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

Oh no! What will become of Iron Man and friends?! Well, *I'm* not going to tell you. I'm just the assistant editor. I *will* answer your other questions, though!

Brian Michael Bendis,

Strange: "I HAD TO. WE'RE AWESOME FACIAL HAIR BROS"--my favorite line of issue #5. I have nothing but praise for you and your crew. You guys made me love Tony Stark even more--every installment is consistently very entertaining and I can't wait for the next one. Cameos or no I'm still pleased...but I'd still like to see some cameos, haha. :) So, is Tony going to stick to one woman now or nah? Hope he does but either way is still fine. Again, thanks for the awesome content, hope I can meet you at a convention someday (I'm from the Philippines, btw).

Thanks!
Luigi Angelino Gutierrez

How's Spidey for a cameo, Luigi? ;)

I'm a longtime Shell-Head fan that always loved and enjoyed the character (for the most part). Iron Man is definitely my number one comic book hero. And I think that's one of the reasons why I can't enjoy more recent comics with him. The problem is that Tony Stark, at this point, is not what he should be. After the success of the movies, Marvel decided to completely retcon him and they started to change him to be more like the version that Robert Downey Jr. played. I think it's wrong to let movies influence the comics.

Tony Stark in comics was a much better character than the way he is portrayed in the movies. Tony Stark throughout his history was portrayed as an honorable and respectful person who has empathy and kindness. Yes, he has personal problems and issues, but he always overcomes them. Old-school forgotten stories like "Vengeance in Vietnam" are pure examples of who Tony Stark is. He's down-to-earth, kind, honorable, and he never puts himself above others and he is not afraid of admitting his mistakes. That's the Tony Stark I love and respect. Yeah, the characters have to always evolve and they can't be the same as they were back in '70s or '80s. But there is a difference between modernizing a character and completely changing his personality and essence. I get it. You want to appeal to more readers that only know movies and never read Iron Man comics before. Also, is there is any chance that you will, one day, maybe, bring the Mandarin back? Iron Man's archnemesis? I think after what was done to him movies, it's safe to say that he deserves a respectful iteration at least in comics.

John Wayne

The truth is, all our writers are fans just like you, and it's really difficult for anyone who's seen the Iron Man movies to ignore the appeal of what RDJ brought to the character. It's not about appealing to readers, it's about our writers finding an exciting new take on the character that allows them to tell new stories.

Also, I have like six emails to bring back the Mandarin all from totally legit names like "John Wayne" and "Elite Mentor." I am not fooled, sir!

Dear INVINCIBLE IRON MAN team,

I have enjoyed the run thus far but when are David Marquez and Justin Ponsor returning? They gave this such a fresh look. Now Bendis is going back to his old team of Mike Deodato and Frank Martin. Deodato and Martin use a lot of dark shadows in their work, which makes it difficult for the reader to appreciate the characters and gadgets.

Wendell S. Johnson II

We love David and Justin too, but they're going to be tied up making CIVIL WAR II absolutely beautiful for quite a while. Fortunately, Mike and Frank are really starting to sink their creative teeth into this book--I think you'll be surprised at just how completely badass the upcoming issues look!

Friends,

MJ is the perfect foil to Tony Stark. This would be great reading even if there wasn't a plot or action. The two-page spread of Tony and MJ walking across the room to the Iron Man armor had me chortling. Tony Stark has met his match--in a manner of speaking.

Friday's a great foil for both. I like the way she second-guesses Tony. Correctly. And keeps him in line, though I suppose he can always reprogram her if he needs to. Good thing she pays his bills for him.

Tomoe is stunning: made me think of Shang-Chi, only a girl, and a tough one. This is meant as a major compliment; I miss Shang-Chi and have to find my dose of way-tough East-Asian kickasser wherever I find it. I once thought Daken would fill that void, but no. I live in hope.

And that last page was as good a hook as I've ever seen.

Namaste,
Elizabeth Holden

Glad you like Tomoe, Elizabeth! And I hope you enjoyed her COMPLETELY WRECKING our guys this issue, haha!

Dear Ms. Alanna Smith,

I wanted to express my appreciation for the work that Bendis and your editorial team is doing on the new run of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN. Issue #5 stood out because of many cool aspects. The use of Mary Jane's perspective to bookend the story served to forward its themes, which included "new beginnings" and "super heroes as lightning rods for calamity." The clever insertion of a kid in a Spidey mask was a terrific non-verbal reminder of Mary Jane's history. And finally, the Easter eggs of wit on the "Another Stark Innovation" page. The ultimate note ("Reimburse club owner...") alone made the issue totally worth it.

Your faithful reader,
Ivan Borodin

Personally, I love the idea that Tony built an A.I. just to sass him into getting his work done. And that he's hired another person to ALSO sass him into getting his work done. Tony is making some good life decisions.

I just started reading the INVINCIBLE IRON MAN and it is amazing! This series has been my first venture into the comic book world and it's been truly astounding!

You guys have done such a fantastic job with the art direction, especially with the new suit. I love how you make it so humorous, yet so serious at the same time.

You've officially got me hooked! Keep up the good work!

Jason Anderson

Welcome to comics, Jason! Hope you enjoy the ride!

I love INVINCIBLE IRON MAN--it is my favorite series. The artwork and the story go together perfectly. My question is, what happened to Tony Stark? Why is he no longer evil? At first I thought that timeline was erased, but you had the symbiotic armor in issue four.

Jarrod Lyons

A lot can happen in eight months--especially when SECRET WARS kicks off those eight months. We dropped a Helicarrier on him in AVENGERS #44--that clearly didn't stick either!

Hello IRON MAN team,

So far I have enjoyed every issue of the All-New, All-Different IRON MAN series. The story has been quite entertaining and the art is absolutely stunning--I can't stress that enough.

Okay, now on to something that has bothered me. The cover of issue #4 with Mary Jane Watson is a beautiful cover ruined by unnecessary jabs at Spider-Man. At this point it's probably in Marvel's best interest to stop purposely kicking the hornet's nest that is "One More Day" detractors. It seems petty and after the great success of RENEW YOUR VOWS, Marvel has clearly seen that the market for married super heroes (especially Peter and MJ) is present and willing to put their money where their mouths are.

Just my two cents, but I hope to hell and heaven that MJ is Tony's sister or niece, not romantic conquest, because I happen to like Dr. Perera and love triangles are so overdone. Thanks for listening and keep up the good work.

Ben Robertson

Thanks! But uh...Tony has to be related to MJ in order to not be attracted to her? Like. Platonic relationships between men and women are a thing, my friend...

And running out of space on a letters page is also a thing! So I'm going to wrap it up here. Keep sending in letters so I can keep subjecting our proofreaders to letters pages. See you next month, Shell-Heads!

-The Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT: WHERE IS TONY STARK?

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR II
MARVEL
BENDIS • DEODATO • MARTIN
#9
INVINCIBLE
IRON MAN™
INTRODUCING...
(OKAY, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A HERO NAME YET-- SHE'S WORKING ON IT!)

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION

Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger **IRON MAN.**

FRIDAY'S LOG:

RECENTLY COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS:

- CONVINCE MARY JANE WATSON TO TAKE A JOB AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/LIFE COACH. [FAILED]
- KEEP WEIRD REFORMED DOCTOR DOOM AWAY FROM SERIOUS ROMANTIC PROSPECT AMARA PERERA. [FAILED]
- SEND RHODEY, A.K.A. WAR MACHINE, A.K.A. YOUR "#1 BFF" TO JAPAN TO TRACK DOWN THE BIOHACK NINJAS THAT WERE TRAILING MADAME MASQUE.
- TEAM UP WITH SPIDER-MAN TO RESCUE RHODEY FROM THE TECHNO GOLEM AND HER BIOHACK NINJAS. [FAILED]

IN-PROGRESS AGENDA ITEMS:

- [NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE]

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS WRITER
MIKE DEODATO ARTIST
FRANK MARTIN COLOR ARTIST
VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER & PRODUCTION
MIKE DEODATO & FRANK MARTIN COVER ARTISTS
ALANNA SMITH ASSISTANT EDITOR
TOM BREVOORT EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY

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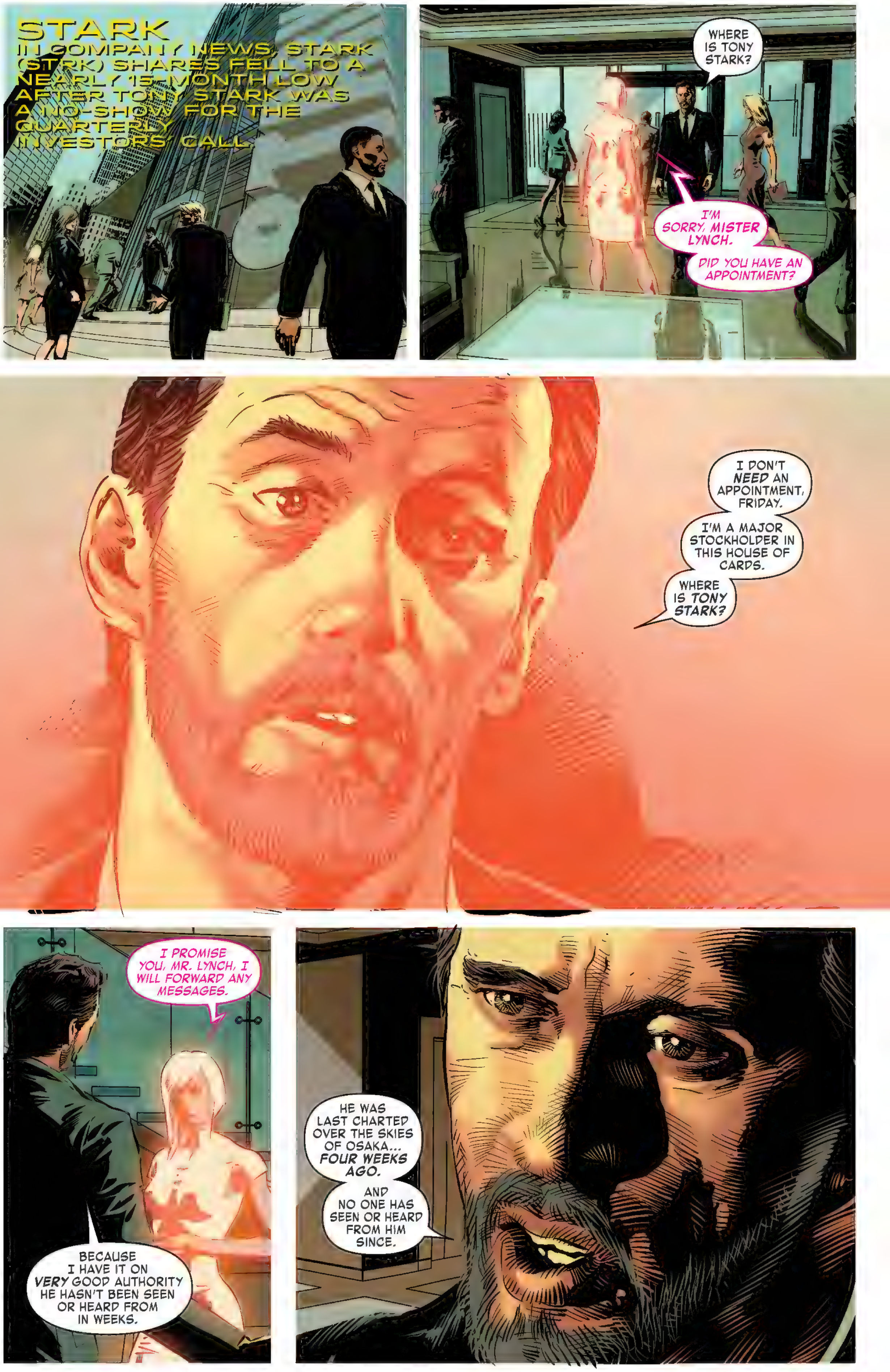
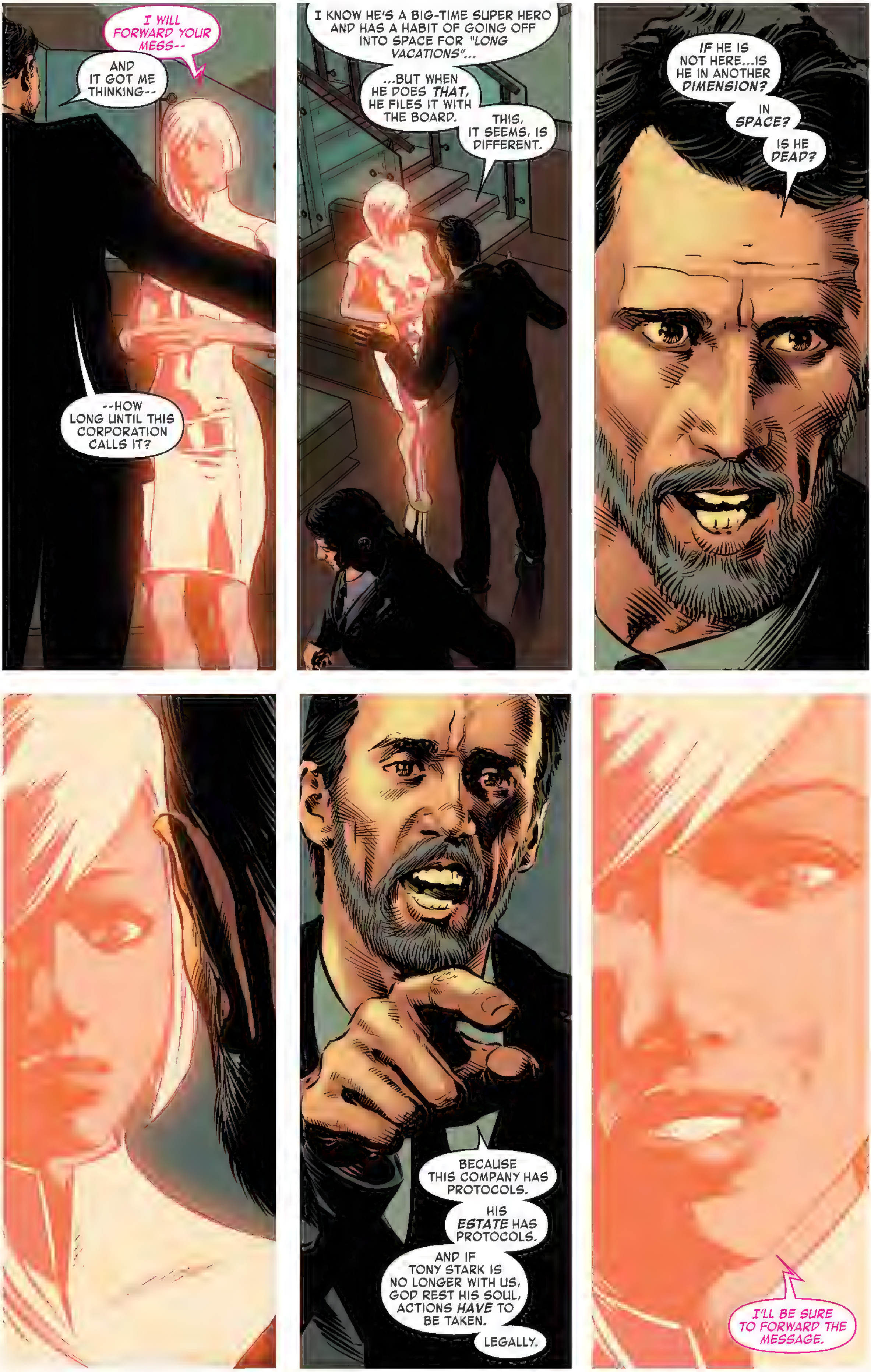
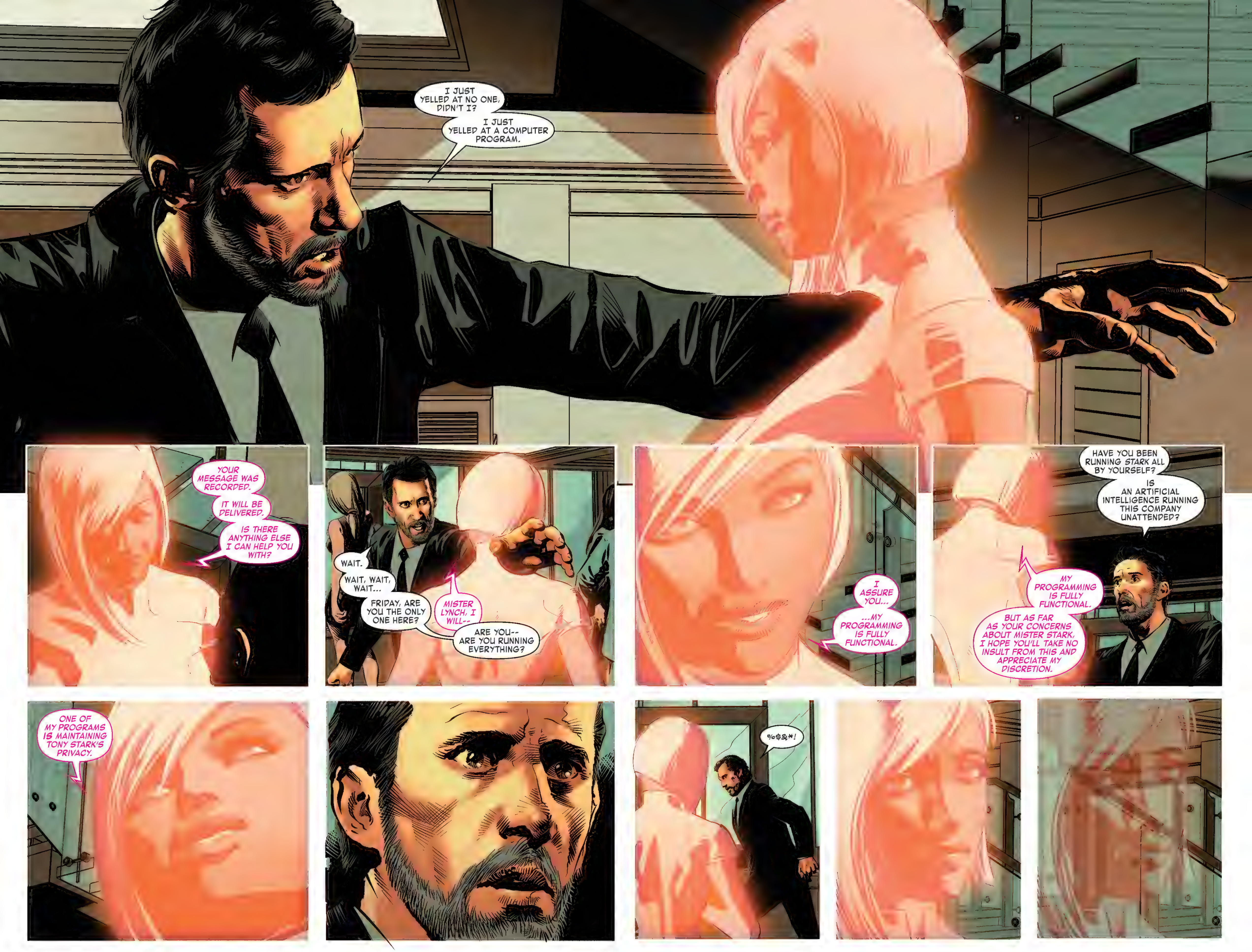
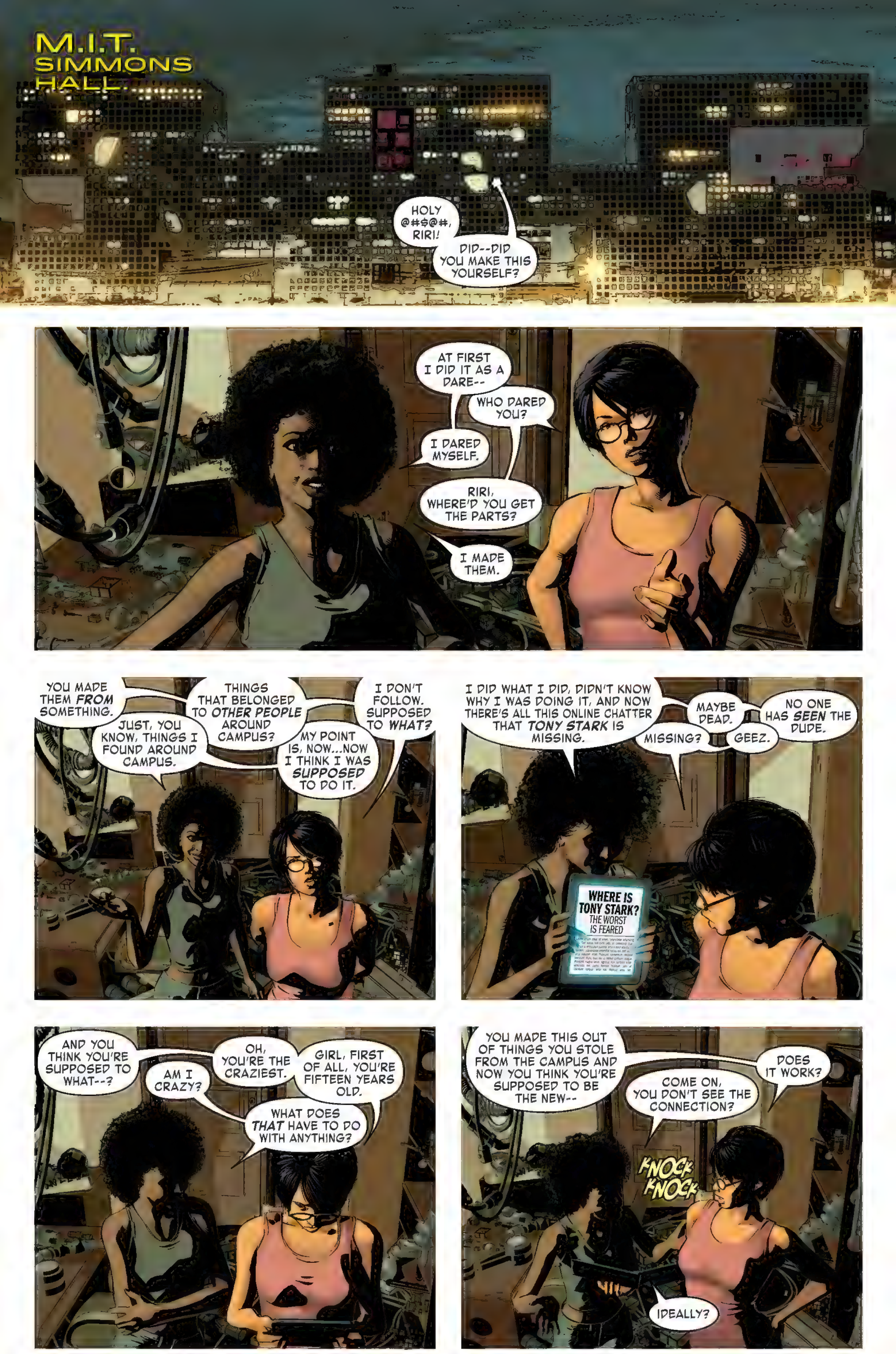
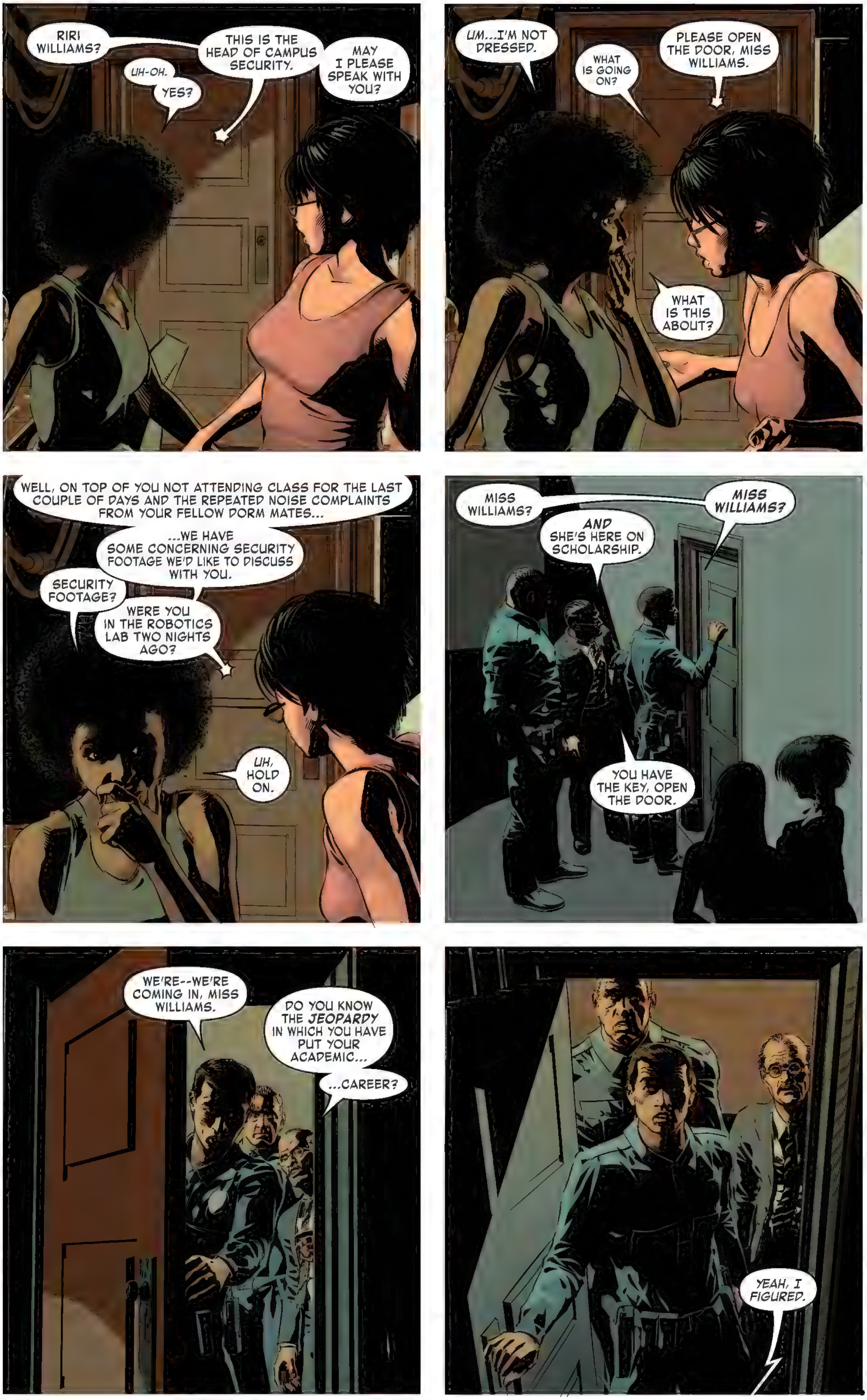

STARK
IN COMPANY NEWS, STARK (STRK) SHARES FELL TO A NEARLY 15-MONTH LOW AFTER TONY STARK WAS A NO-SHOW FOR THE QUARTERLY INVESTORS' CALL.
WHERE IS TONY STARK?
I'M SORRY, MISTER LYNCH.
DID YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?
I DON'T NEED AN APPOINTMENT, FRIDAY.
I'M A MAJOR STOCKHOLDER IN THIS HOUSE OF CARDS.
WHERE IS TONY STARK?
I PROMISE YOU, MR. LYNCH, I WILL FORWARD ANY MESSAGES.
BECAUSE I HAVE IT ON VERY GOOD AUTHORITY HE HASN'T BEEN SEEN OR HEARD FROM IN WEEKS.
HE WAS LAST CHARTED OVER THE SKIES OF OSAKA... FOUR WEEKS AGO.
AND NO ONE HAS SEEN OR HEARD FROM HIM SINCE.

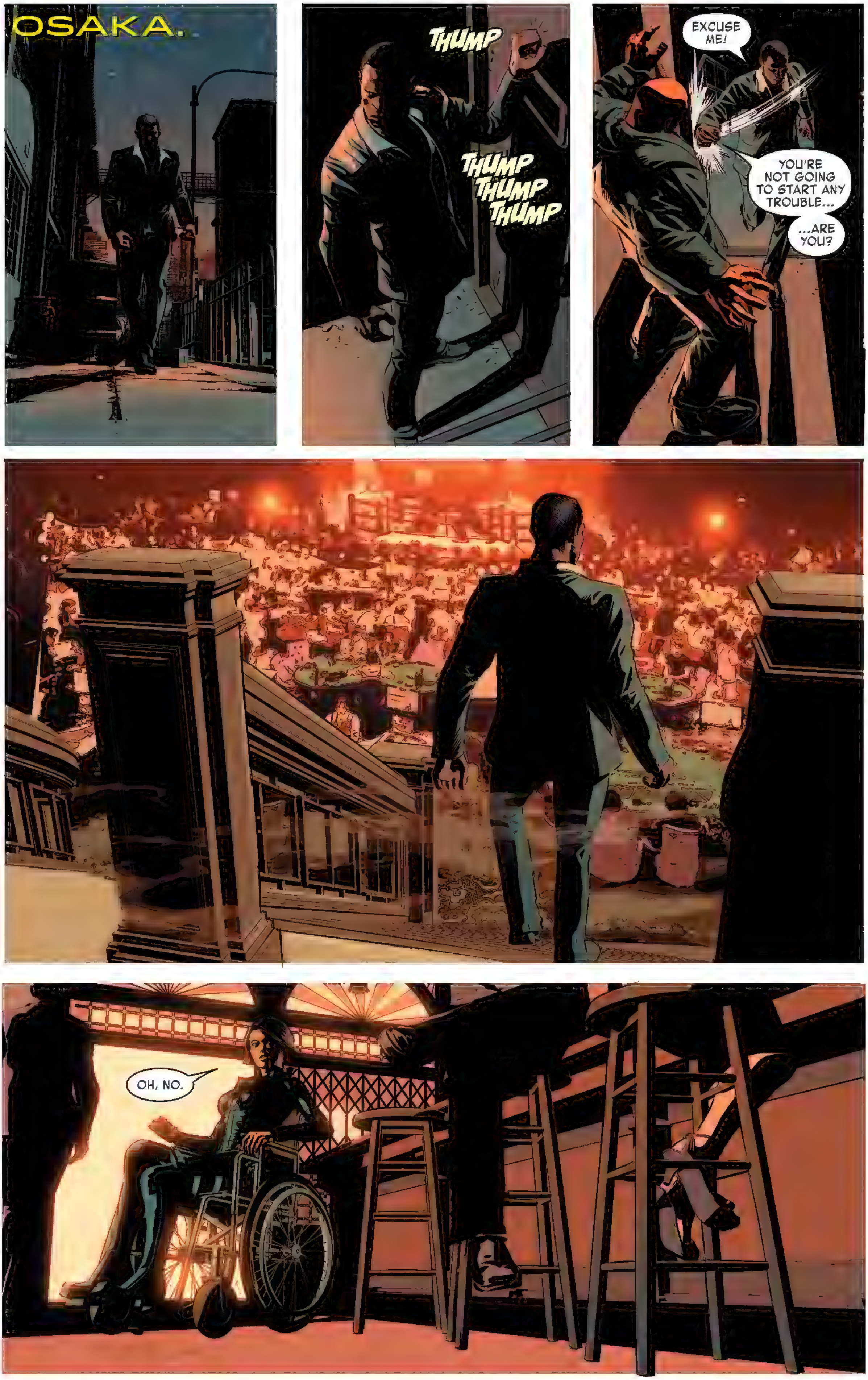

I WILL FORWARD YOUR MESS--
AND IT GOT ME THINKING--
--HOW LONG UNTIL THIS CORPORATION CALLS IT?
I KNOW HE'S A BIG-TIME SUPER HERO AND HAS A HABIT OF GOING OFF INTO SPACE FOR "LONG VACATIONS"...
...BUT WHEN HE DOES *THAT*, HE FILES IT WITH THE BOARD.
THIS, IT SEEMS, IS DIFFERENT.
IF HE IS NOT HERE...IS HE IN ANOTHER *DIMENSION?*
IN *SPACE?*
IS HE *DEAD?*
BECAUSE THIS COMPANY HAS PROTOCOLS.
HIS *ESTATE* HAS PROTOCOLS.
AND IF TONY STARK IS NO LONGER WITH US, GOD REST HIS SOUL, ACTIONS *HAVE* TO BE TAKEN.
LEGALLY.
I'LL BE SURE TO FORWARD THE MESSAGE.

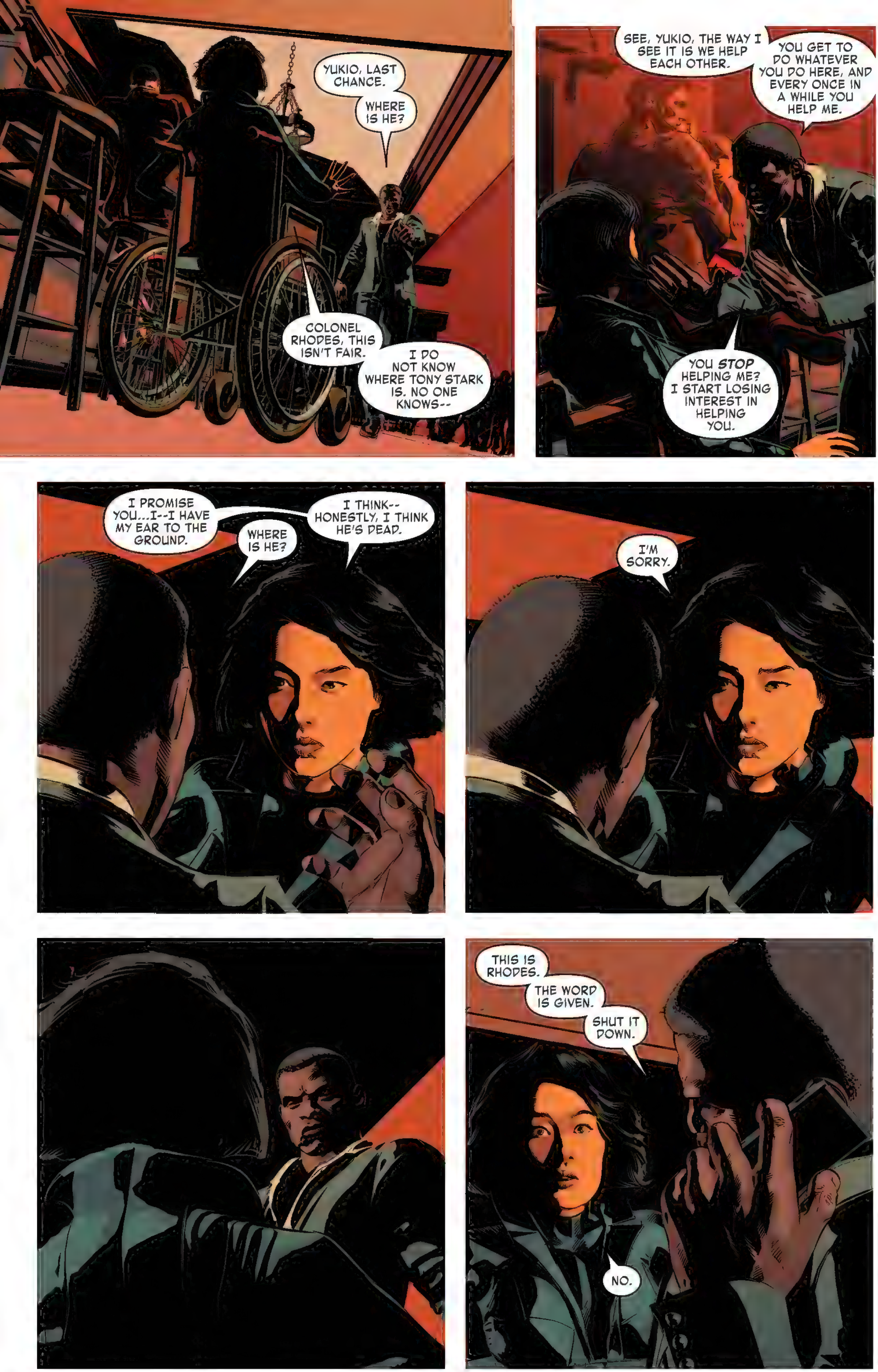

I JUST YELLED AT NO ONE, DIDN'T I?
I JUST YELLED AT A COMPUTER PROGRAM.
YOUR MESSAGE WAS RECORDED.
IT WILL BE DELIVERED.
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
WAIT.
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT...
FRIDAY, ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE HERE?
MISTER LYNCH, I WILL--
ARE YOU-- ARE YOU RUNNING EVERYTHING?
I ASSURE YOU...
...MY PROGRAMMING IS FULLY FUNCTIONAL.
HAVE YOU BEEN RUNNING *STARK* ALL BY YOURSELF?
IS AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RUNNING THIS COMPANY UNATTENDED?
MY PROGRAMMING *IS* FULLY FUNCTIONAL.
BUT AS FAR AS YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT MISTER STARK, I HOPE YOU'LL TAKE NO INSULT FROM THIS AND APPRECIATE MY DISCRETION.
ONE OF MY PROGRAMS **IS** MAINTAINING TONY STARK'S PRIVACY.
%$&*!

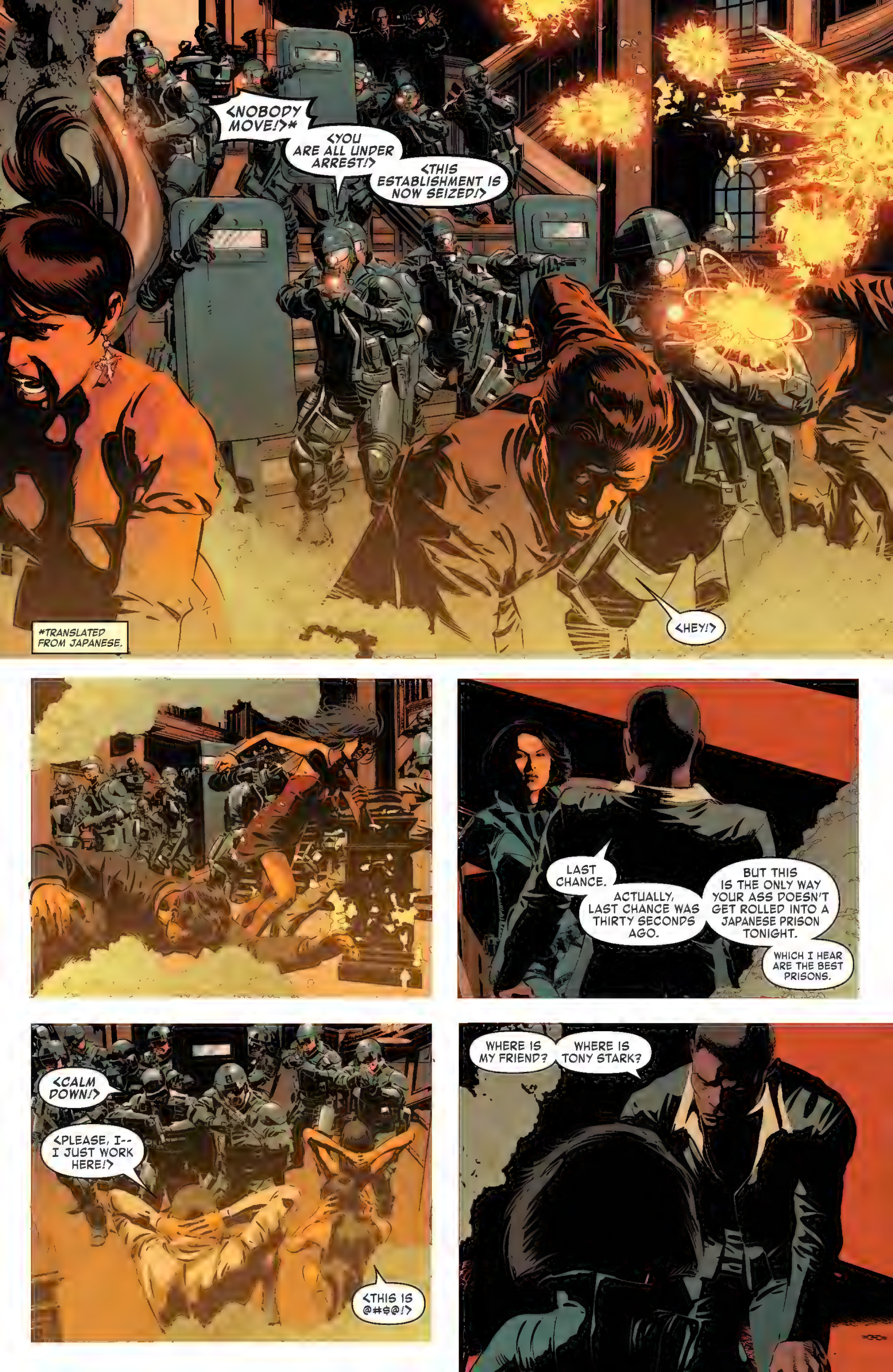

M.I.T. SIMMONS HALL
HOLY @#$@#, RIRI!
DID--DID YOU MAKE THIS YOURSELF?
AT FIRST I DID IT AS A DARE--
WHO DARED YOU?
I DARED MYSELF.
RIRI, WHERE'D YOU GET THE PARTS?
I MADE THEM.
YOU MADE THEM *FROM* SOMETHING.
JUST, YOU KNOW, THINGS I FOUND AROUND CAMPUS.
THINGS THAT BELONGED TO *OTHER PEOPLE* AROUND CAMPUS?
MY POINT IS, NOW...NOW I THINK I WAS *SUPPOSED* TO DO IT.
I DON'T FOLLOW. SUPPOSED TO *WHAT?*
I DID WHAT I DID, DIDN'T KNOW WHY I WAS DOING IT, AND NOW THERE'S ALL THIS ONLINE CHATTER THAT *TONY STARK* IS MISSING.
MISSING?
MAYBE DEAD.
GEEZ.
NO ONE HAS *SEEN* THE DUDE.
WHERE IS TONY STARK?
THE WORST IS FEARED
AND YOU THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WHAT--?
AM I CRAZY?
OH, YOU'RE THE CRAZIEST.
GIRL, FIRST OF ALL, YOU'RE FIFTEEN YEARS OLD.
WHAT DOES *THAT* HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
YOU MADE THIS OUT OF THINGS YOU STOLE FROM THE CAMPUS AND NOW YOU THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE NEW--
IDEALLY?
COME ON, YOU DON'T SEE THE CONNECTION?
DOES IT WORK?
KNOCK KNOCK

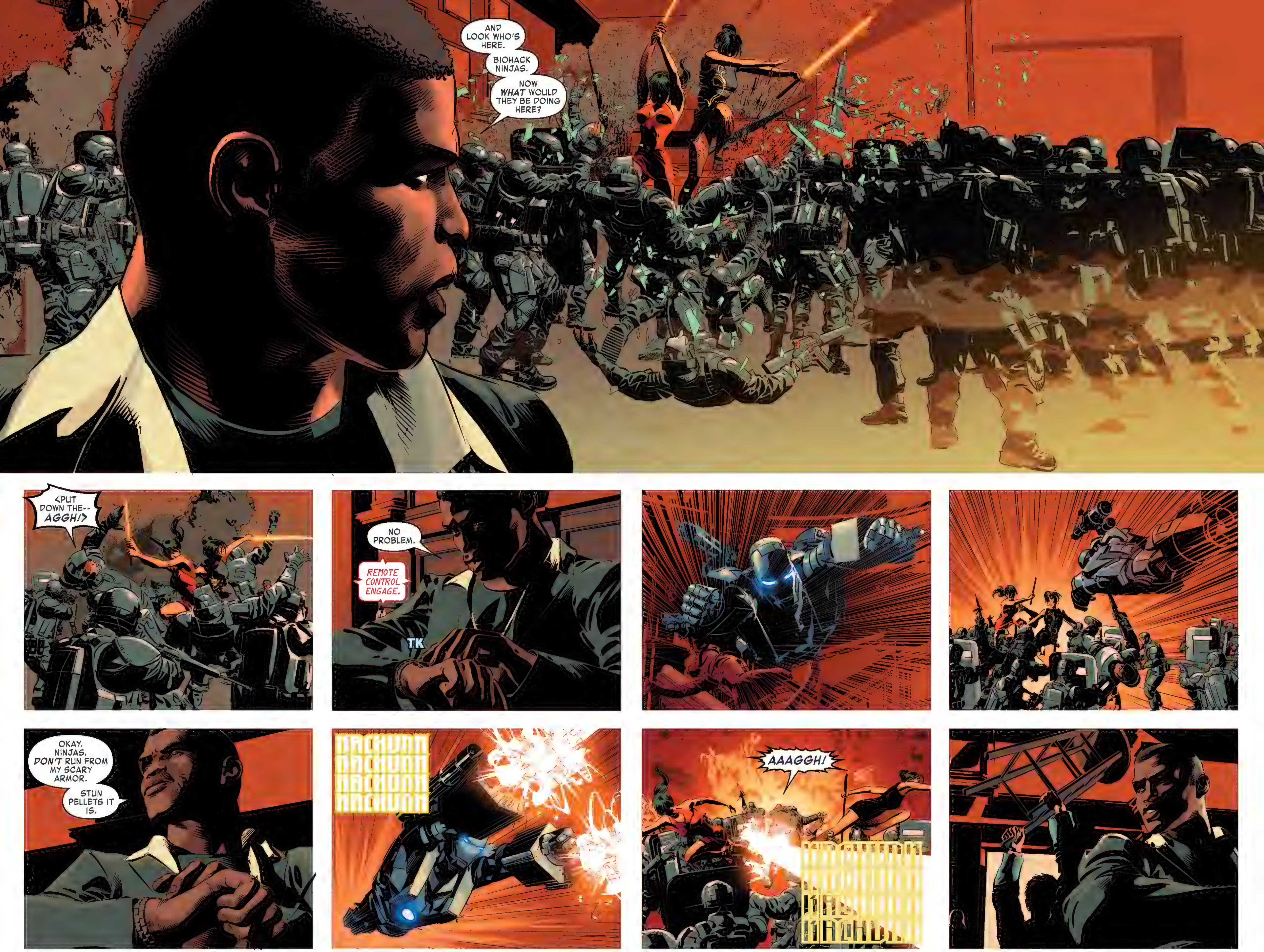

RIRI WILLIAMS?
THIS IS THE HEAD OF CAMPUS SECURITY.
UH-OH.
YES?
MAY I PLEASE SPEAK WITH YOU?
UM...I'M NOT DRESSED.
WHAT IS GOING ON?
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR, MISS WILLIAMS.
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
WELL, ON TOP OF YOU NOT ATTENDING CLASS FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS AND THE REPEATED NOISE COMPLAINTS FROM YOUR FELLOW DORM MATES...
...WE HAVE SOME CONCERNING SECURITY FOOTAGE WE'D LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU.
SECURITY FOOTAGE?
WERE YOU IN THE ROBOTICS LAB TWO NIGHTS AGO?
UH, HOLD ON.
MISS WILLIAMS?
MISS WILLIAMS?
AND SHE'S HERE ON SCHOLARSHIP.
YOU HAVE THE KEY, OPEN THE DOOR.
WE'RE--WE'RE COMING IN, MISS WILLIAMS.
DO YOU KNOW THE *JEOPARDY* IN WHICH YOU HAVE PUT YOUR ACADEMIC...
...CAREER?
YEAH, I FIGURED.

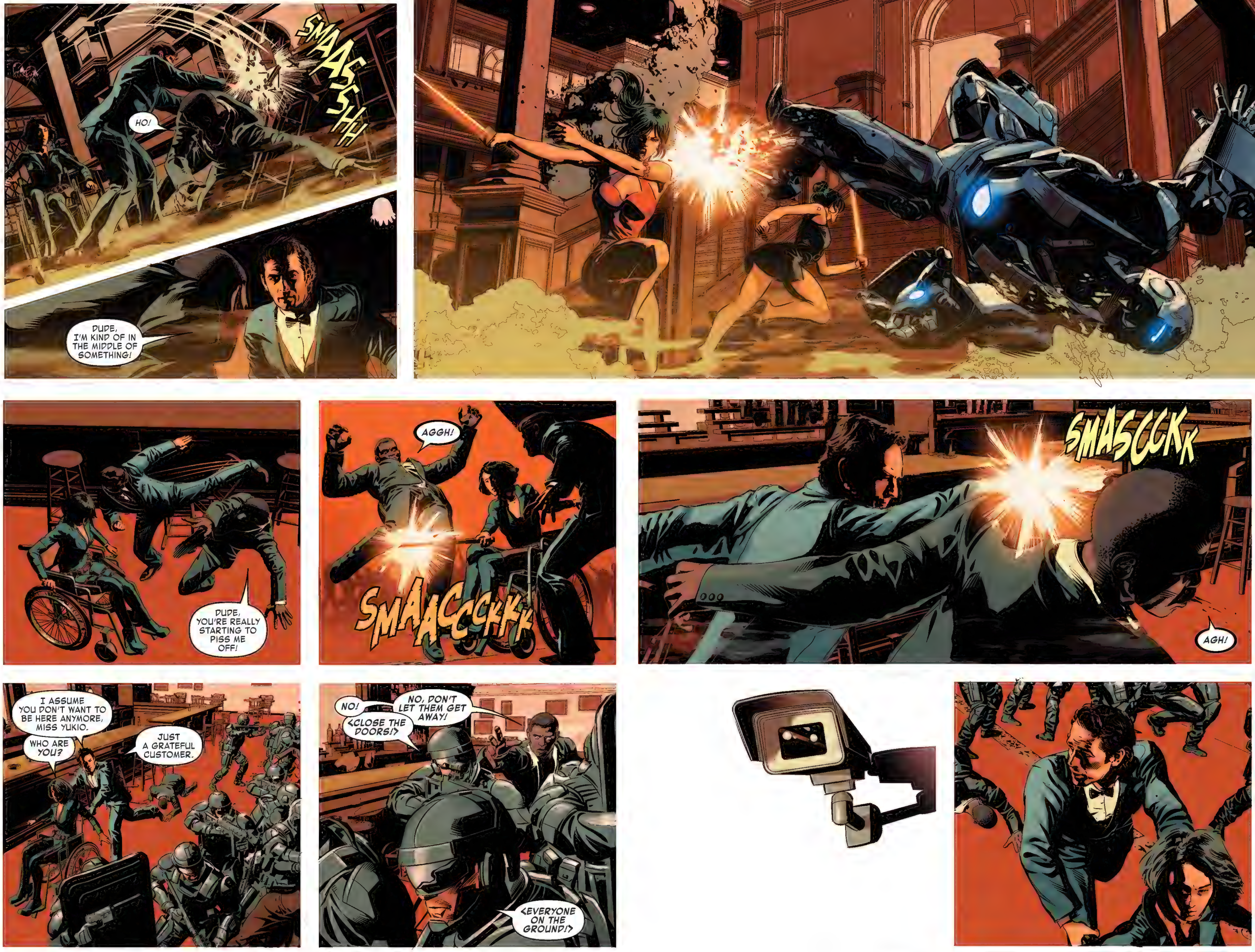
IT'S OKAY.
I THINK I'M DONE WITH SCHOOL.

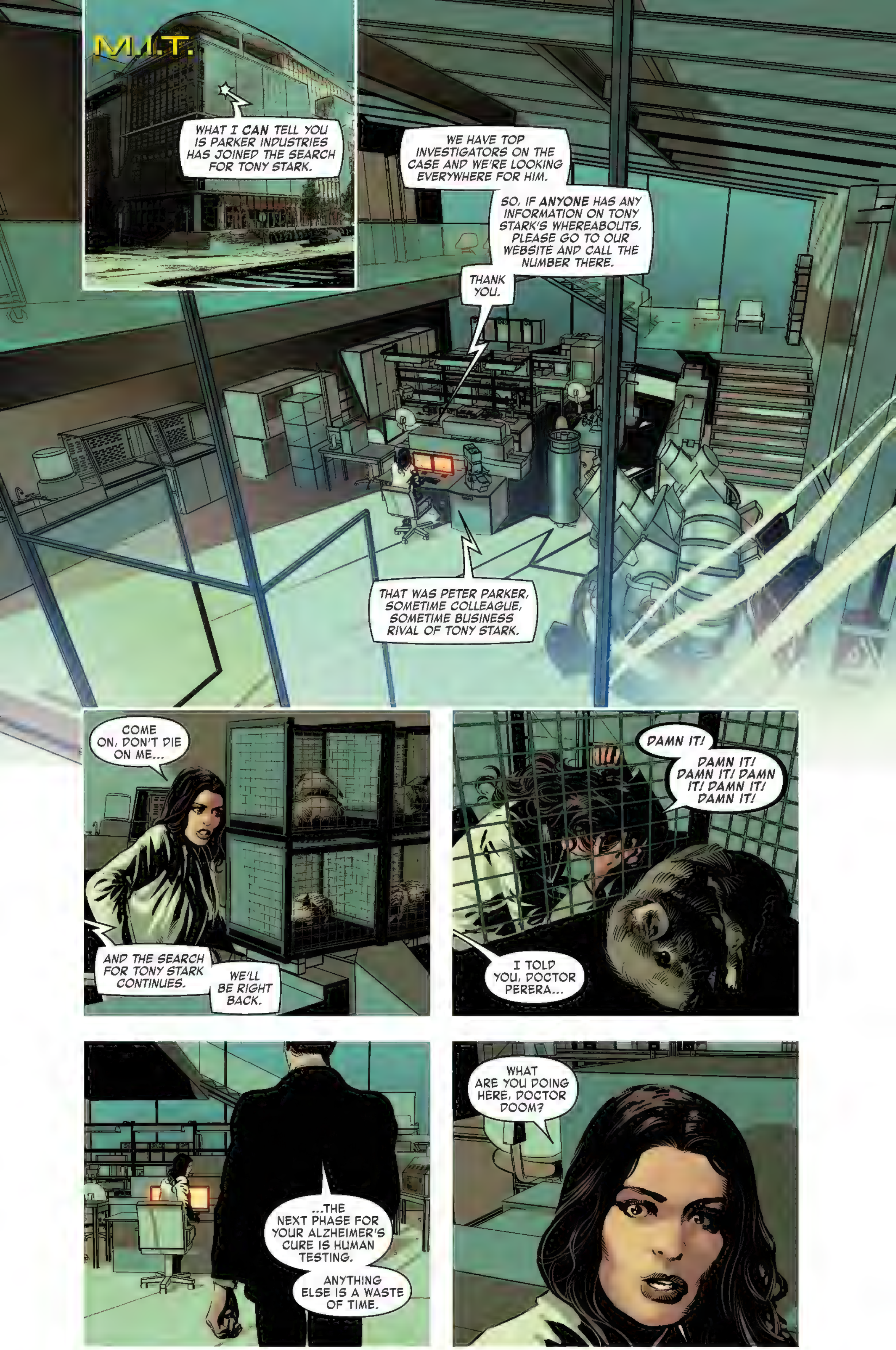

OSAKA.
THUMP
THUMP THUMP THUMP
EXCUSE ME!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO START ANY TROUBLE...
...ARE YOU?
OH, NO.

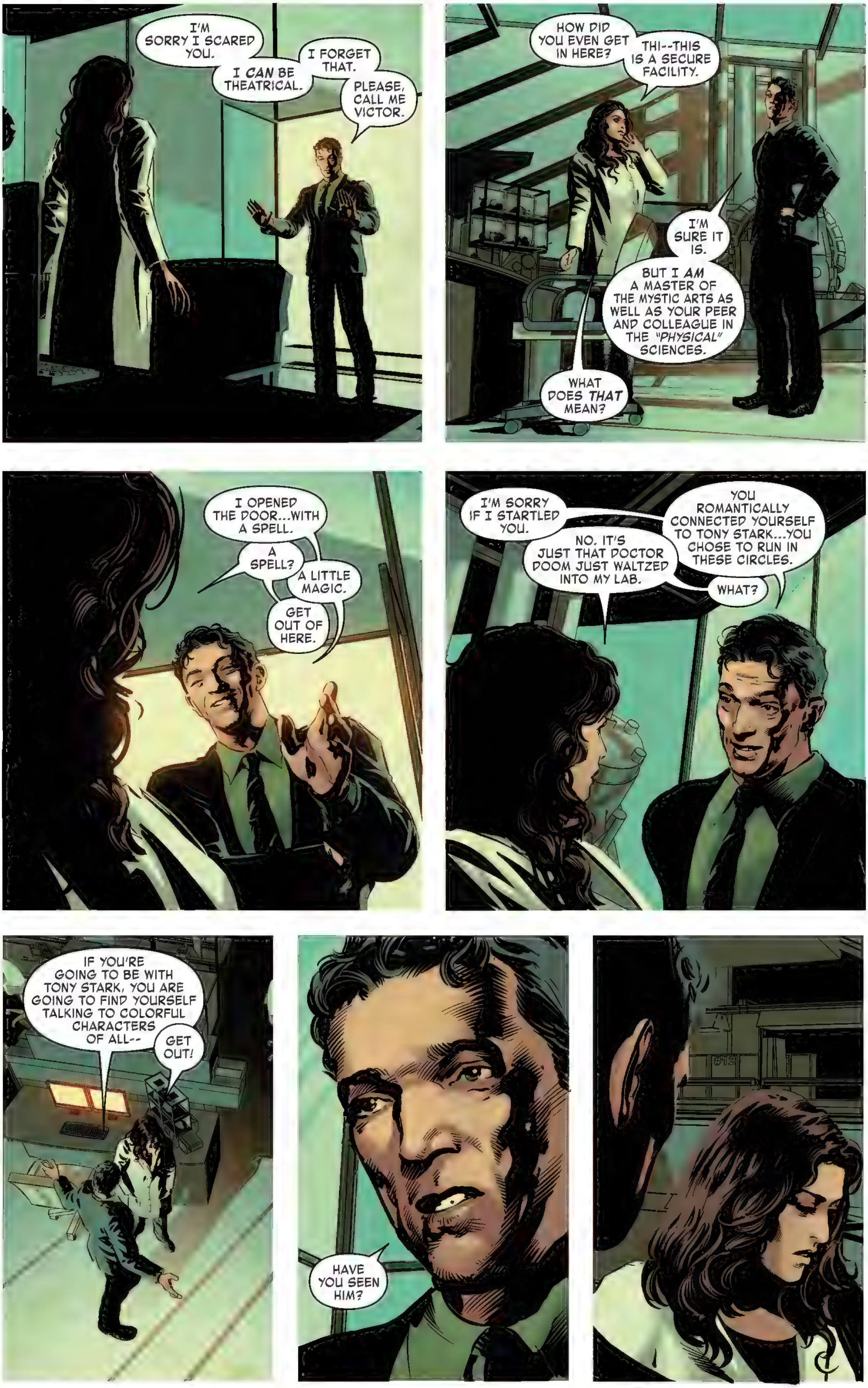

YUKIO, LAST CHANCE.
WHERE IS HE?
COLONEL RHODES, THIS ISN'T FAIR.
I DO NOT KNOW WHERE TONY STARK IS. NO ONE KNOWS--
SEE, YUKIO, THE WAY I SEE IT IS WE HELP EACH OTHER.
YOU GET TO DO WHATEVER YOU DO HERE, AND EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE YOU HELP ME.
YOU *STOP* HELPING ME? I START LOSING INTEREST IN HELPING YOU.
I PROMISE YOU...I--I HAVE MY EAR TO THE GROUND.
WHERE IS HE?
I THINK-- HONESTLY, I THINK HE'S DEAD.
I'M SORRY.
THIS IS RHODES.
THE WORD IS GIVEN.
SHUT IT DOWN.
NO.

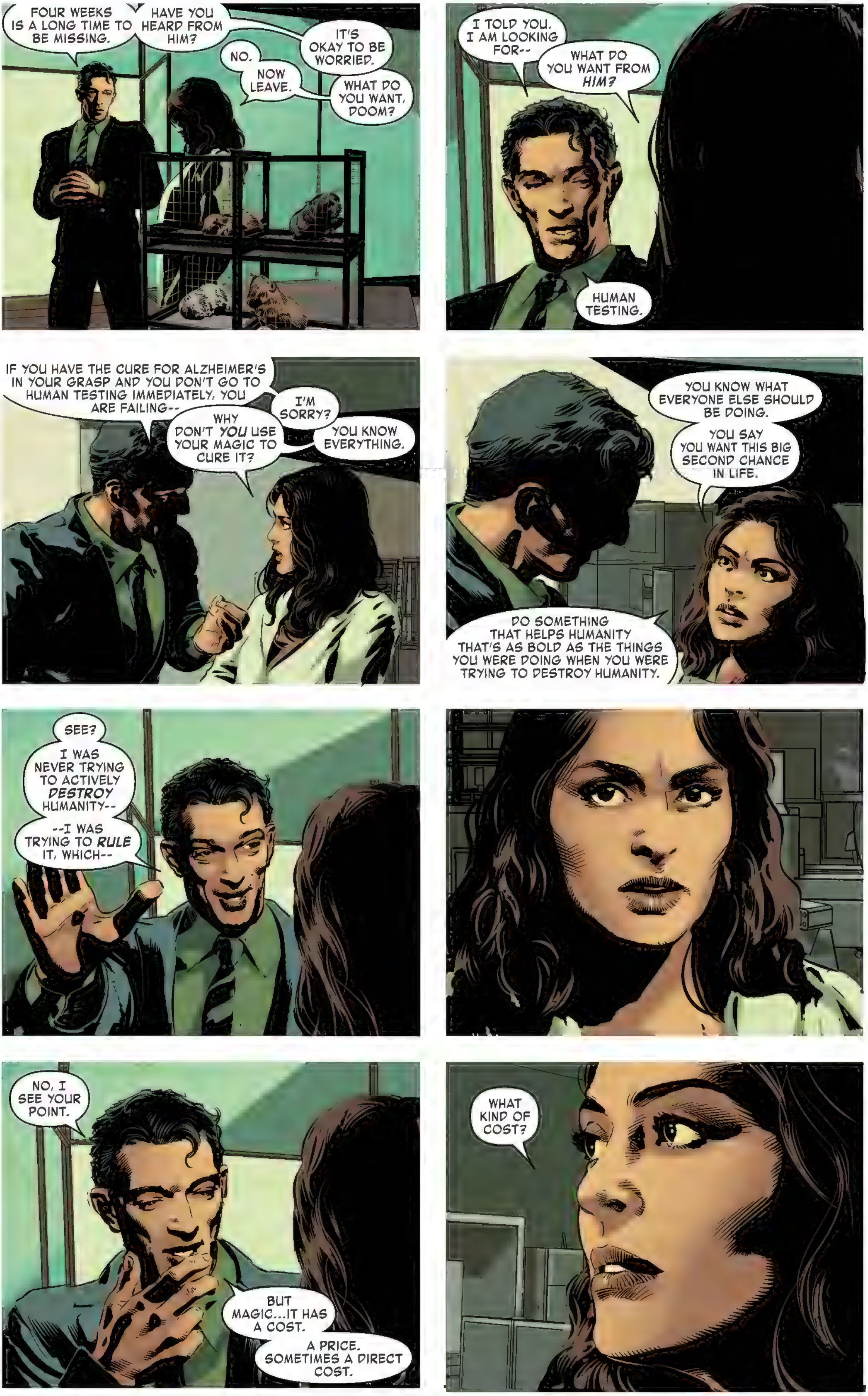

<NOBODY MOVE!>*
<YOU ARE ALL UNDER ARREST!>
<THIS ESTABLISHMENT IS NOW SEIZED!>
<HEY!>
*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.
LAST CHANCE.
ACTUALLY, LAST CHANCE WAS THIRTY SECONDS AGO.
BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY YOUR ASS DOESN'T GET ROLLED INTO A JAPANESE PRISON TONIGHT.
WHICH I HEAR ARE THE BEST PRISONS.
<CALM DOWN!>
<PLEASE, I-- I JUST WORK HERE!>
<THIS IS @#$@!>
WHERE IS MY FRIEND?
WHERE IS TONY STARK?

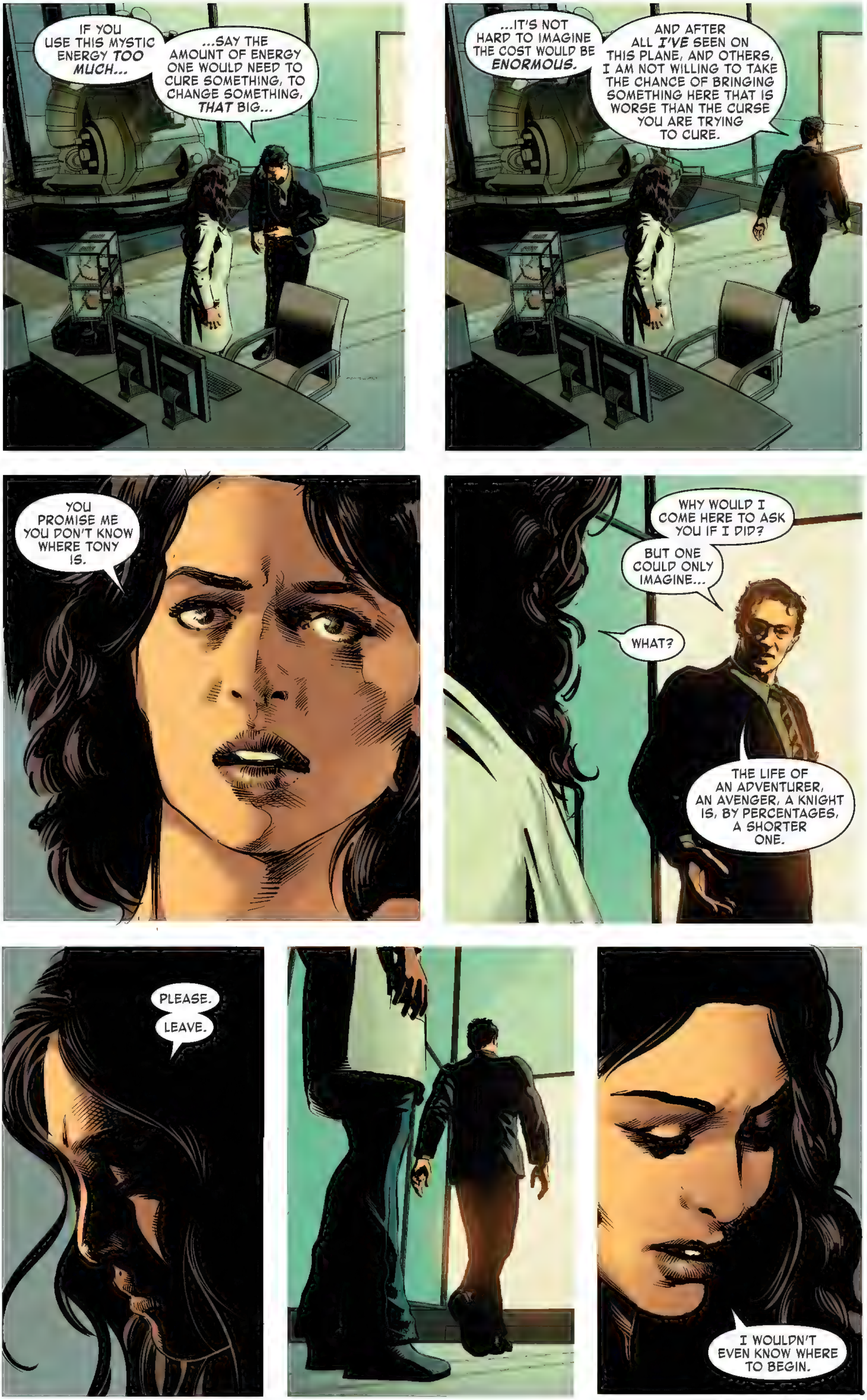

AND LOOK WHO'S HERE.
BIOHACK NINJAS.
NOW *WHAT* WOULD THEY BE DOING HERE?
<PUT DOWN THE-- *AGGH!*>
NO PROBLEM.
REMOTE CONTROL ENGAGE.
TK
OKAY, NINJAS, *DON'T* RUN FROM MY SCARY ARMOR.
STUN PELLETS IT IS.
AAAGGH!

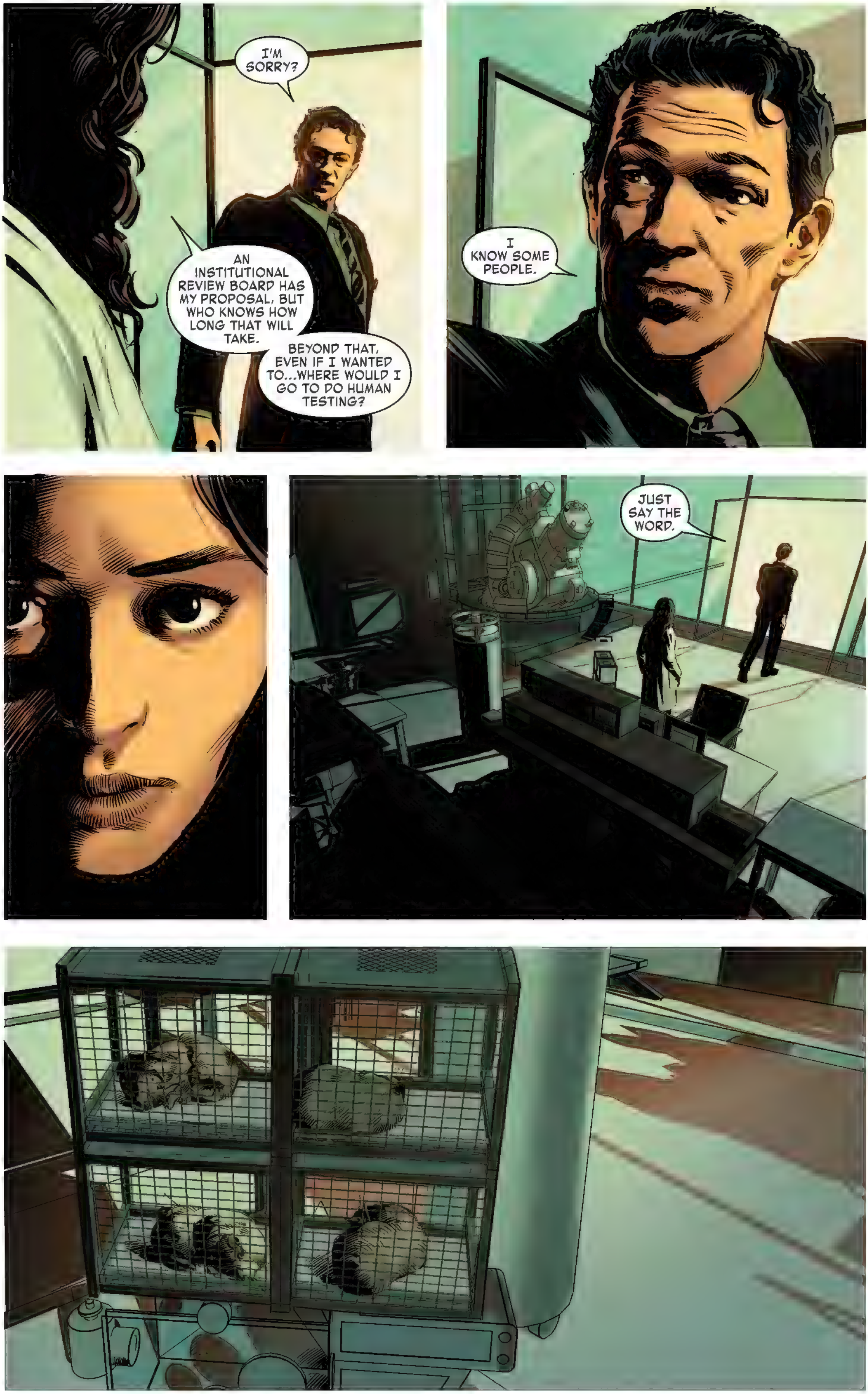

SMAASSHH
HO!
DUDE, I'M KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING!
DUDE, YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF!
AGGH!
SMAACCCKKK
SMASCCKK
AGH!
I ASSUME YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ANYMORE, MISS YUKIO.
WHO ARE YOU?
JUST A GRATEFUL CUSTOMER.
NO!
<CLOSE THE DOORS!>
NO, DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
<EVERYONE ON THE GROUND!>

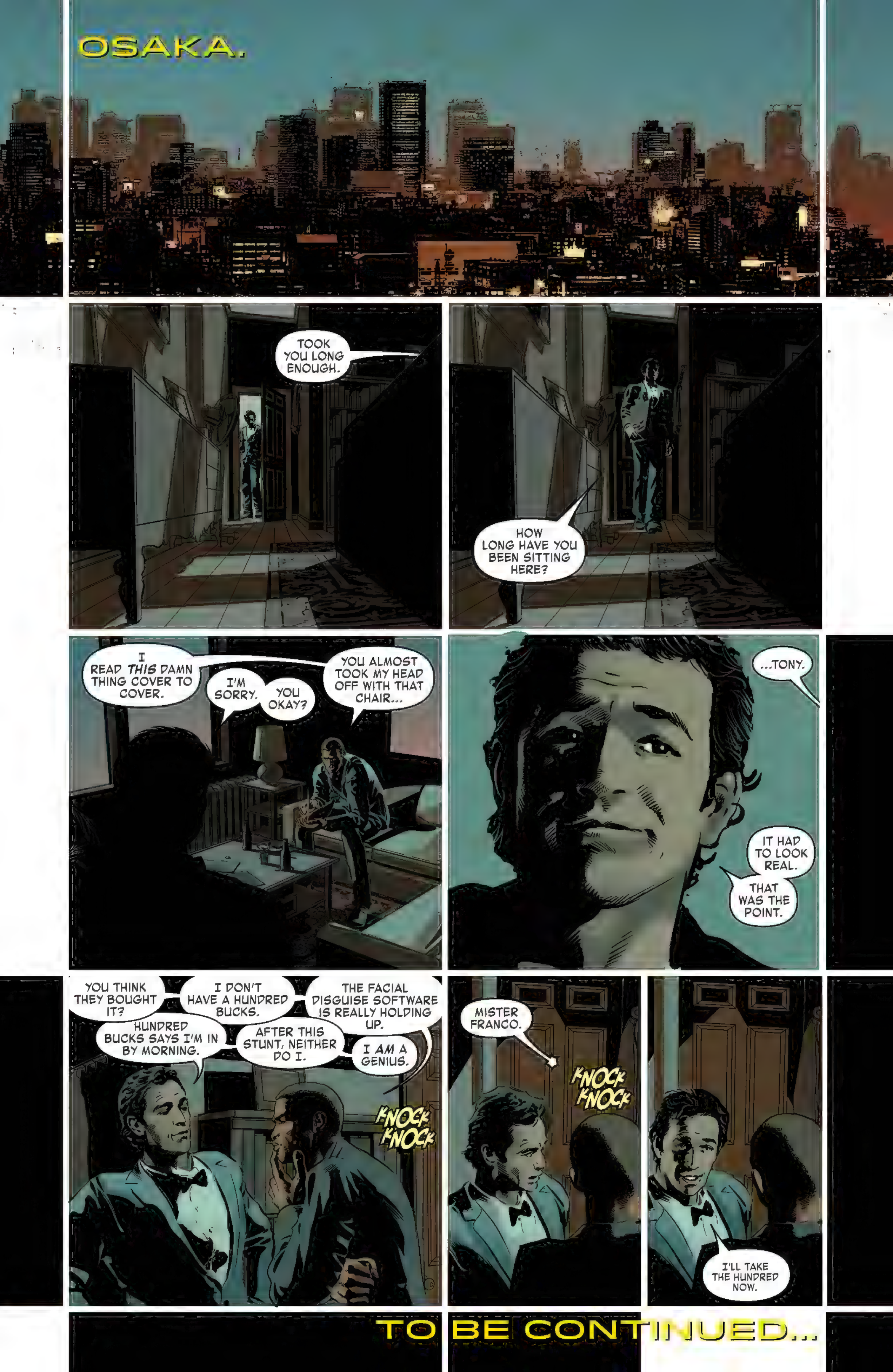

M.I.T.
WHAT I CAN TELL YOU IS PARKER INDUSTRIES HAS JOINED THE SEARCH FOR TONY STARK.
WE HAVE TOP INVESTIGATORS ON THE CASE AND WE'RE LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR HIM.
SO, IF ANYONE HAS ANY INFORMATION ON TONY STARK'S WHEREABOUTS, PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND CALL THE NUMBER THERE.
THANK YOU.
THAT WAS PETER PARKER, SOMETIME COLLEAGUE, SOMETIME BUSINESS RIVAL OF TONY STARK.
COME ON, DON'T DIE ON ME...
AND THE SEARCH FOR TONY STARK CONTINUES.
WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
DAMN IT!
DAMN IT! DAMN IT! DAMN IT! DAMN IT! DAMN IT!
I TOLD YOU, DOCTOR PERERA...
...THE NEXT PHASE FOR YOUR ALZHEIMER'S CURE IS HUMAN TESTING.
ANYTHING ELSE IS A WASTE OF TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, DOCTOR DOOM?


I'M SORRY I SCARED YOU.
I *CAN* BE THEATRICAL.
I FORGET THAT.
PLEASE, CALL ME VICTOR.
HOW DID YOU EVEN GET IN HERE?
THI--THIS IS A SECURE FACILITY.
I'M SURE IT IS.
BUT I *AM* A MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS AS WELL AS YOUR PEER AND COLLEAGUE IN THE *"PHYSICAL"* SCIENCES.
WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
I OPENED THE DOOR...WITH A SPELL.
A SPELL?
A LITTLE MAGIC.
GET OUT OF HERE.
I'M SORRY IF I STARTLED YOU.
NO. IT'S JUST THAT DOCTOR DOOM JUST WALTZED INTO MY LAB.
YOU ROMANTICALLY CONNECTED YOURSELF TO TONY STARK...YOU CHOSE TO RUN IN THESE CIRCLES.
WHAT?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE WITH TONY STARK, YOU ARE GOING TO FIND YOURSELF TALKING TO COLORFUL CHARACTERS OF ALL--
GET OUT!
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?


FOUR WEEKS IS A LONG TIME TO BE MISSING.
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM HIM?
IT'S OKAY TO BE WORRIED.
NO.
NOW LEAVE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, DOOM?
I TOLD YOU. I AM LOOKING FOR--
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM *HIM?*
HUMAN TESTING.
IF YOU HAVE THE CURE FOR ALZHEIMER'S IN YOUR GRASP AND YOU DON'T GO TO HUMAN TESTING IMMEDIATELY, YOU ARE FAILING--
I'M SORRY?
WHY DON'T *YOU* USE YOUR MAGIC TO CURE IT?
YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.
YOU KNOW WHAT EVERYONE ELSE SHOULD BE DOING.
YOU SAY YOU WANT THIS BIG SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE.
DO SOMETHING THAT HELPS HUMANITY THAT'S AS BOLD AS THE THINGS YOU WERE DOING WHEN YOU WERE TRYING TO DESTROY HUMANITY.
SEE?
I WAS NEVER TRYING TO ACTIVELY *DESTROY* HUMANITY--
--I WAS TRYING TO *RULE* IT, WHICH--
NO, I SEE YOUR POINT.
BUT MAGIC...IT HAS A COST.
A PRICE. SOMETIMES A DIRECT COST.
WHAT KIND OF COST?


IF YOU USE THIS MYSTIC ENERGY *TOO MUCH...*
...SAY THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY ONE WOULD NEED TO CURE SOMETHING, TO CHANGE SOMETHING, *THAT* BIG...
...IT'S NOT HARD TO IMAGINE THE COST WOULD BE *ENORMOUS.*
AND AFTER ALL *I'VE* SEEN ON THIS PLANE, AND OTHERS, I AM NOT WILLING TO TAKE THE CHANCE OF BRINGING SOMETHING HERE THAT IS WORSE THAN THE CURSE YOU ARE TRYING TO CURE.
YOU PROMISE ME YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TONY IS.
WHY WOULD I COME HERE TO ASK YOU IF I DID?
BUT ONE COULD ONLY IMAGINE...
WHAT?
THE LIFE OF AN ADVENTURER, AN AVENGER, A KNIGHT IS, BY PERCENTAGES, A SHORTER ONE.
PLEASE.
LEAVE.
I WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.


I'M SORRY?
AN INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD HAS MY PROPOSAL, BUT WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THAT WILL TAKE.
BEYOND THAT, EVEN IF I WANTED TO...WHERE WOULD I GO TO DO HUMAN TESTING?
I KNOW SOME PEOPLE.
JUST SAY THE WORD.


OSAKA.
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SITTING HERE?
I READ *THIS* DAMN THING COVER TO COVER.
I'M SORRY.
YOU OKAY?
YOU ALMOST TOOK MY HEAD OFF WITH THAT CHAIR...
...TONY.
IT HAD TO LOOK REAL.
THAT WAS THE POINT.
YOU THINK THEY BOUGHT IT?
I DON'T HAVE A HUNDRED BUCKS.
THE FACIAL DISGUISE SOFTWARE IS REALLY HOLDING UP.
HUNDRED BUCKS SAYS I'M IN BY MORNING.
AFTER THIS STUNT, NEITHER DO I.
I *AM* A GENIUS.
KNOCK KNOCK
MISTER FRANCO.
KNOCK KNOCK
I'LL TAKE THE HUNDRED NOW.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:

Watson Mary Jane
STARK
#newjob #likeaboss #ironwoman #selfiemj #coolcup
20
117

STARK UNDERCOVER

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Bryson Mees Hernandez, a true Iron Fan who passed away in January.

"He looked up to Iron Man because he was strong, fearless and he dedicated his life to helping others."

-Bryson's family

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR II

MARVEL

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™

#10

Watson Mary Jane
STARK
#newjob #likeaboss #ironwoman #selfiemj #coolcup
20 117 #bendis #deodato #martin

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION

Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger **IRON MAN.**

FRIDAY'S LOG:

RECENTLY COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS:

- CONVINCE MARY JANE WATSON TO TAKE A JOB AS AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/LIFE COACH. [FAILED]
- DISGUISE YOURSELF AS "FRANCO THE TOTALLY NORMAL CRIMINAL" TO INGRATIATE YOURSELF TO THE JAPANESE UNDERGROUND.

IN-PROGRESS AGENDA ITEMS:

- INFILTRATE THE GROUP OF BIOHACK NINJAS RUN BY TOMOE, A.K.A. THE TECHNO GOLEM, TO FIND OUT WHY THEY WERE TRAILING MADAME MASQUE.
- SAVE YOUR COMPANY FROM BEING STOLEN OUT FROM UNDER YOU BY INVESTORS WHILE YOU'RE IN JAPAN [NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING URGENT ABOUT THAT, THE A.I. RUNNING YOUR COMPANY SAID SARCASTICALLY].

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FRANK MARTIN COLOR ARTIST
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DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY

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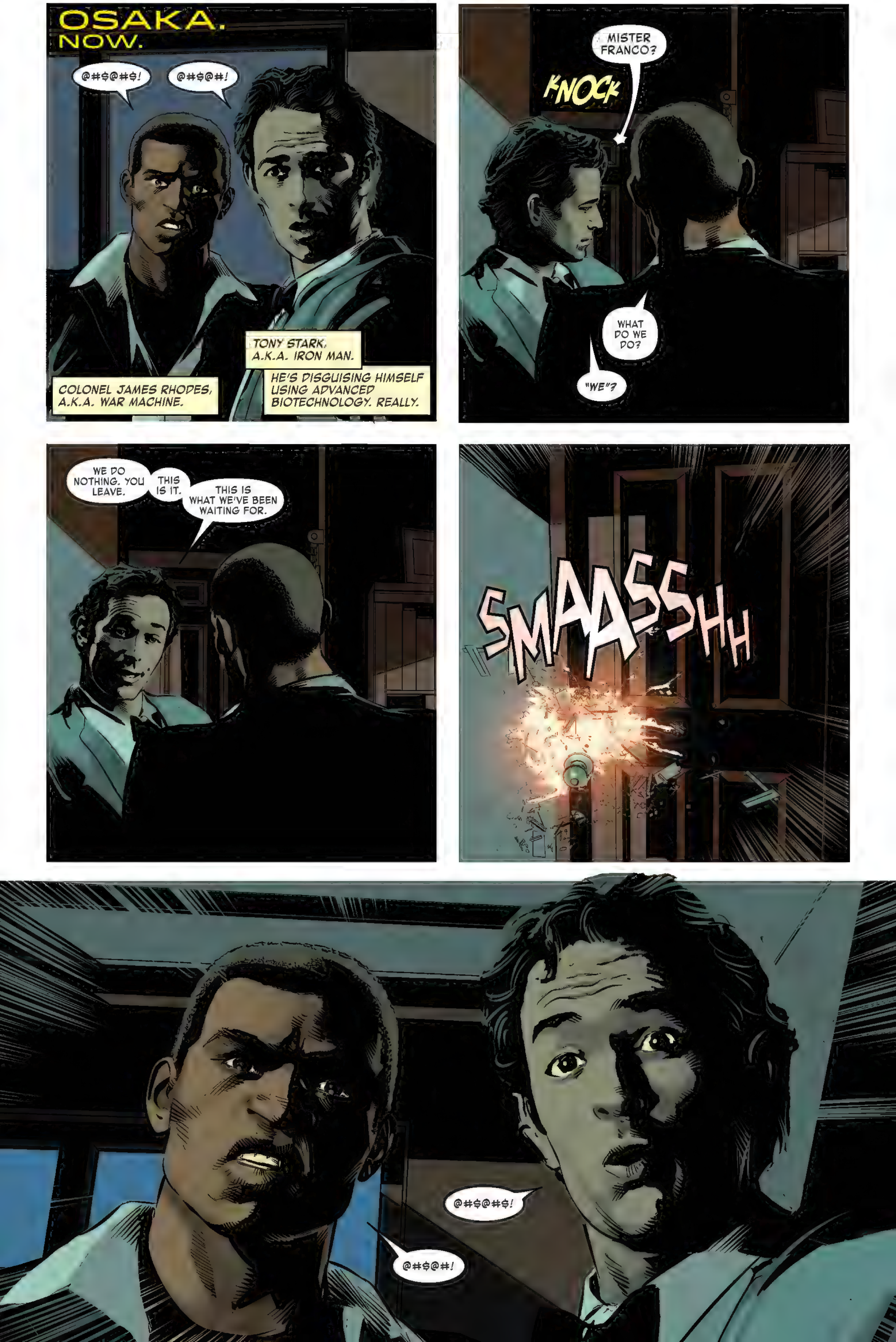
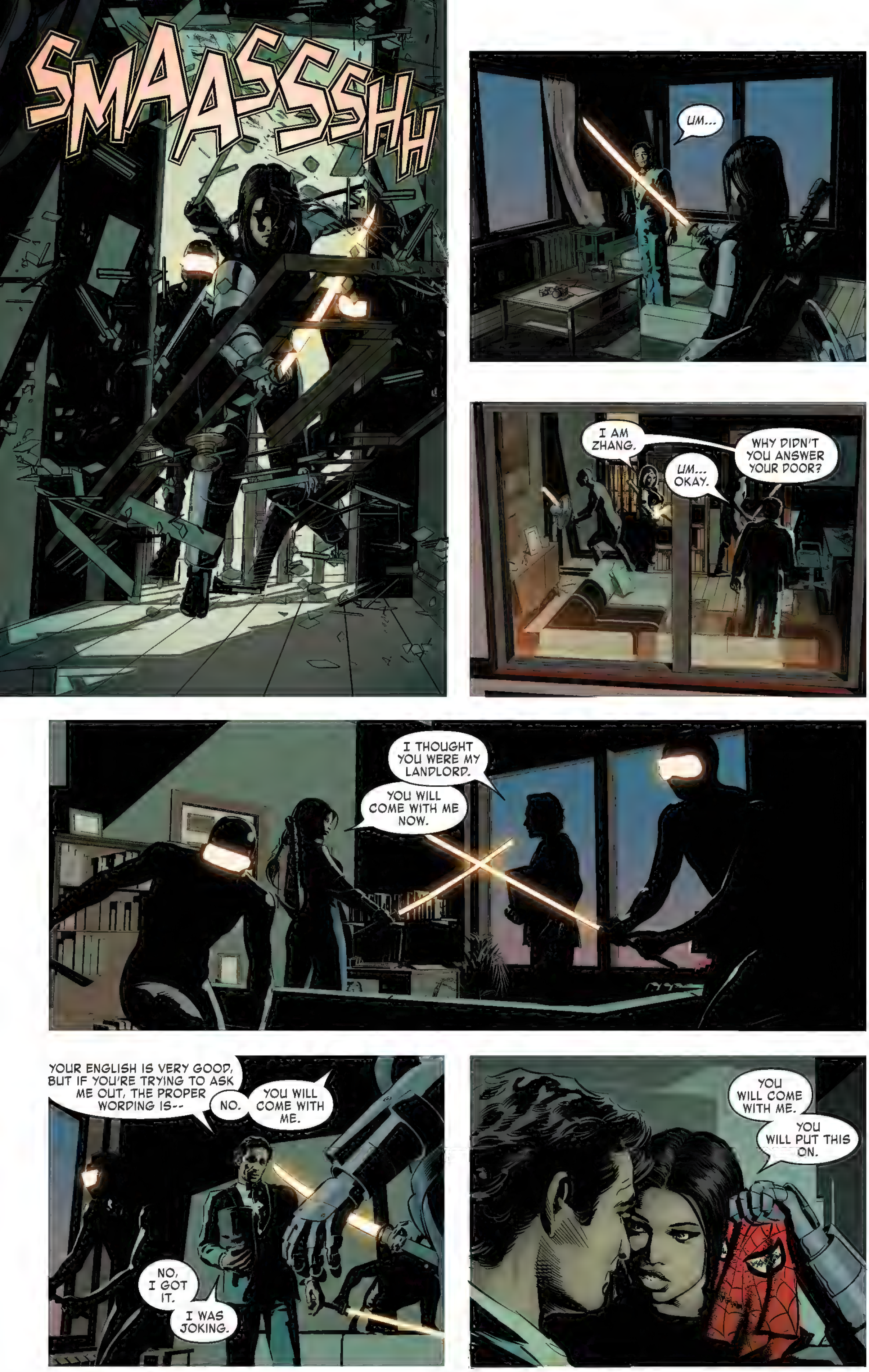
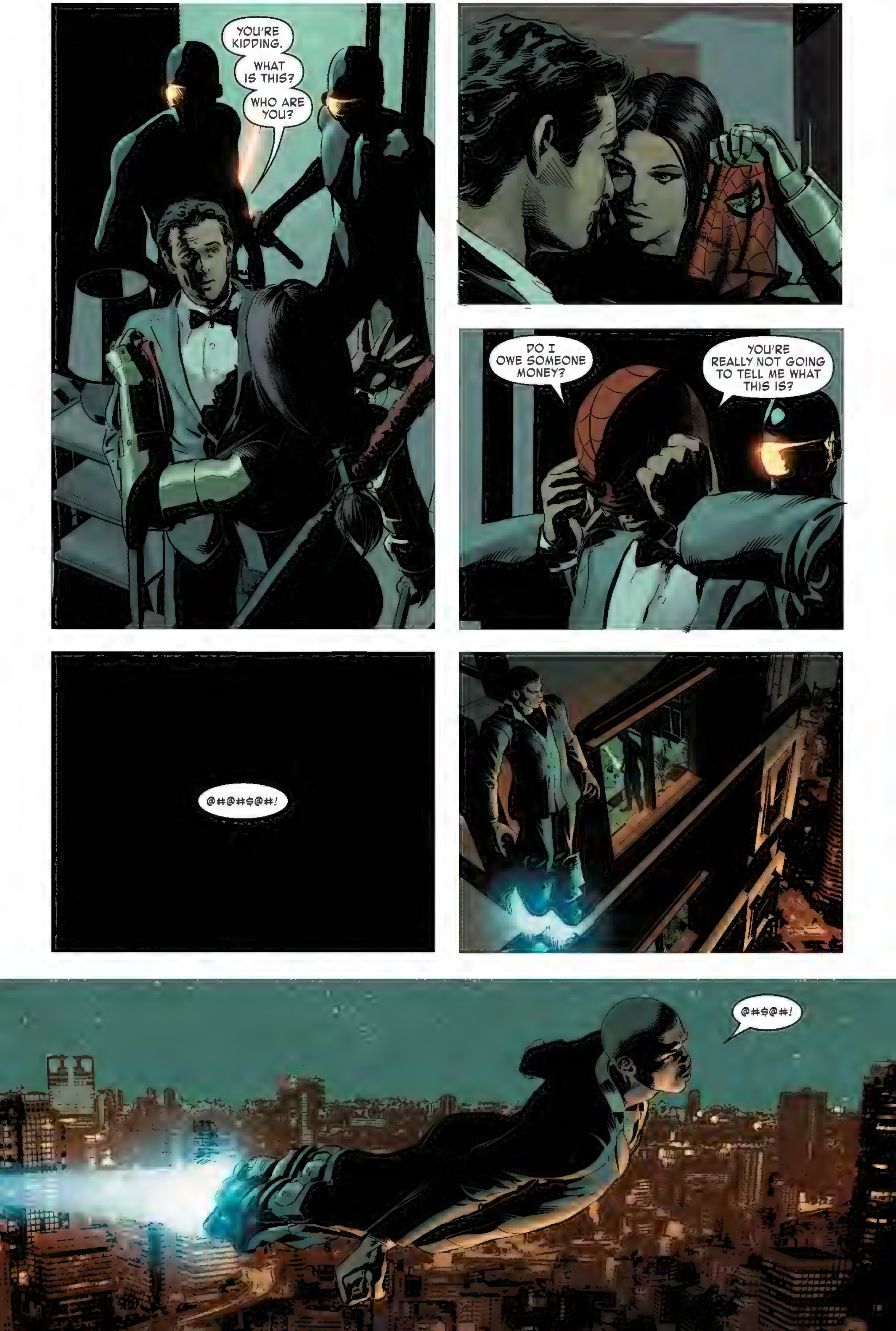
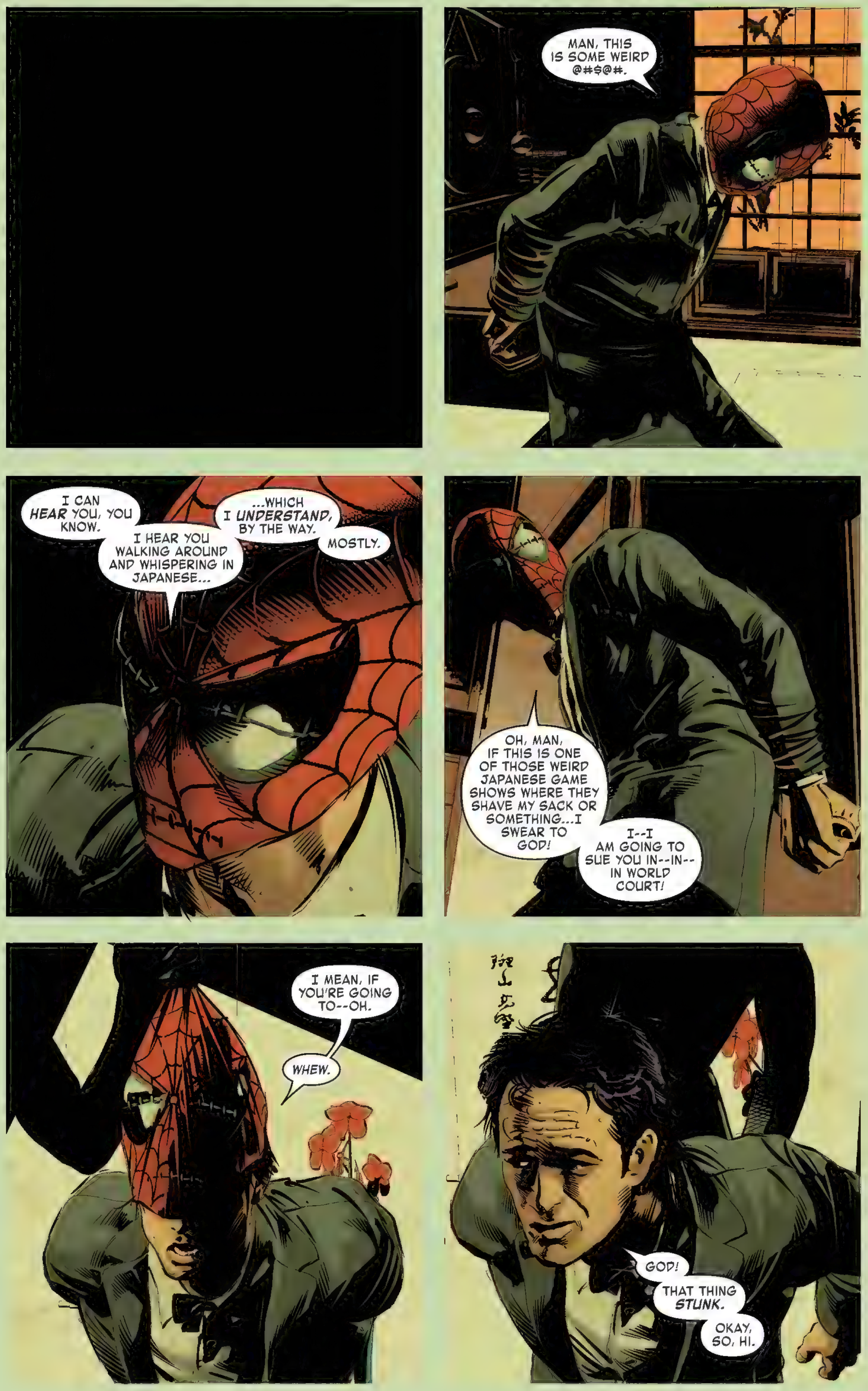
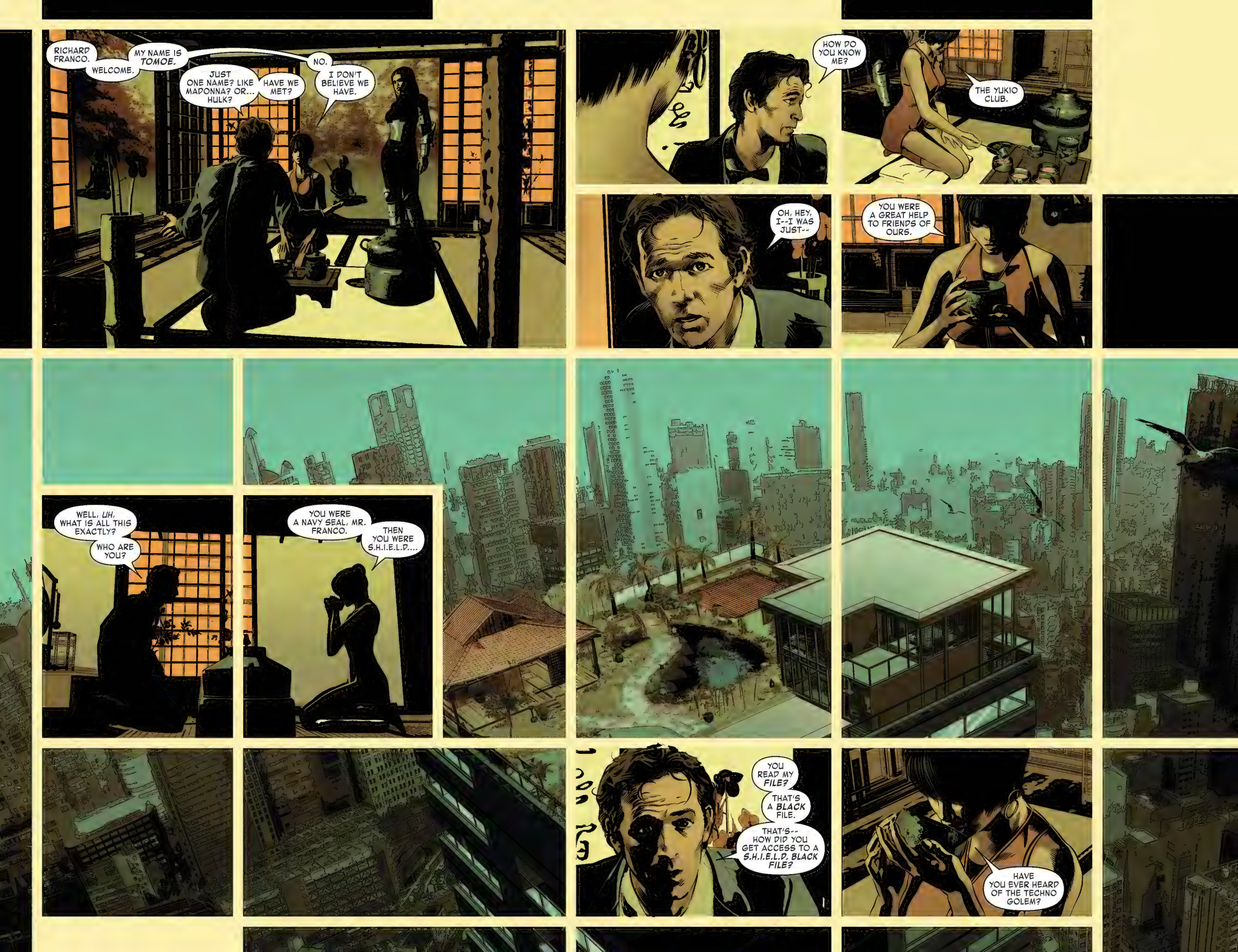
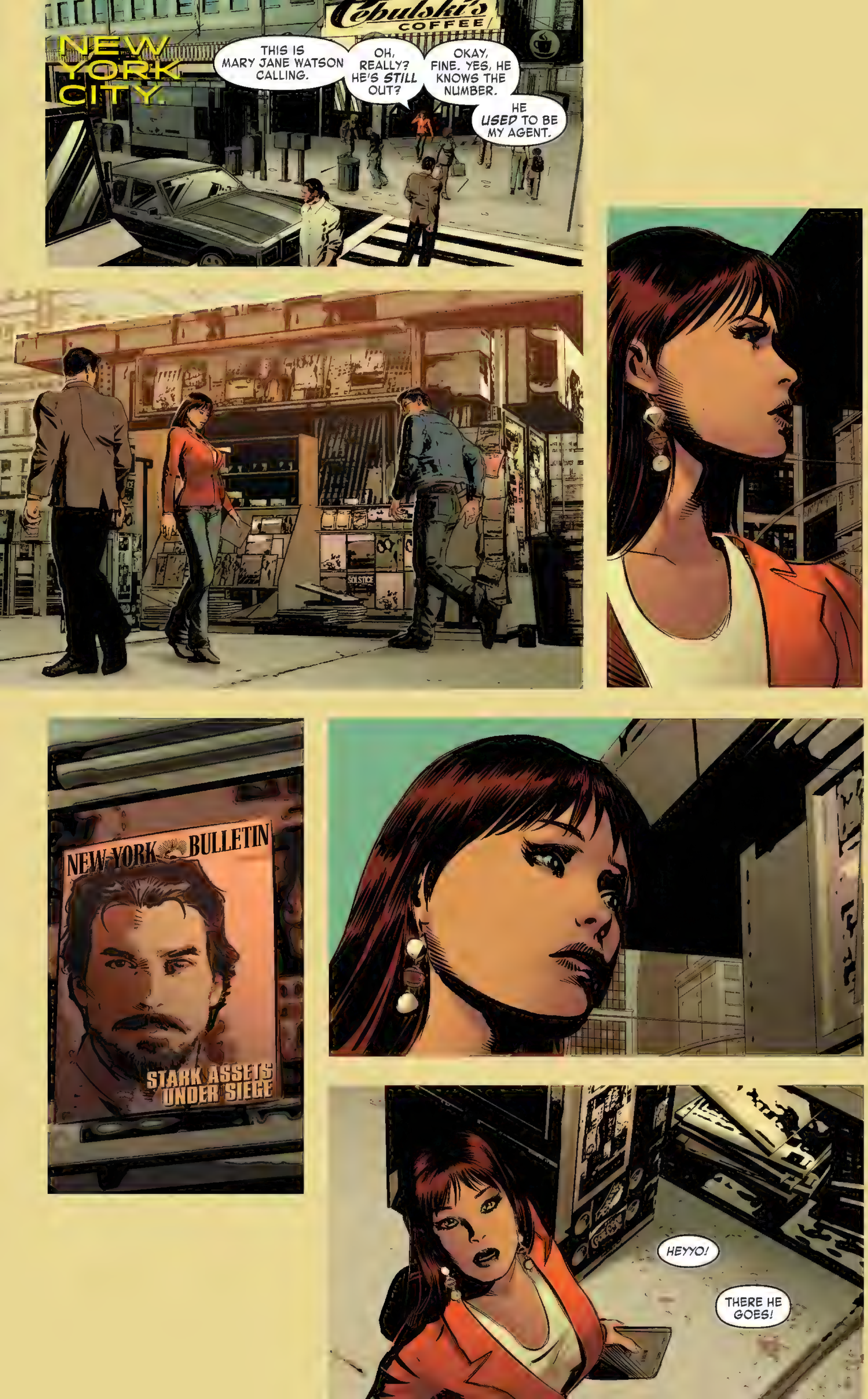

OSAKA.
NOW.
@#$@#$!
@#$@#!
TONY STARK, A.K.A. IRON MAN.
COLONEL JAMES RHODES, A.K.A. WAR MACHINE.
HE'S DISGUISING HIMSELF USING ADVANCED BIOTECHNOLOGY. REALLY.
MISTER FRANCO?
KNOCK
WHAT DO WE DO?
"WE"?
WE DO NOTHING. YOU LEAVE.
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
SMAASSHH
@#$@#$!
@#$@#!

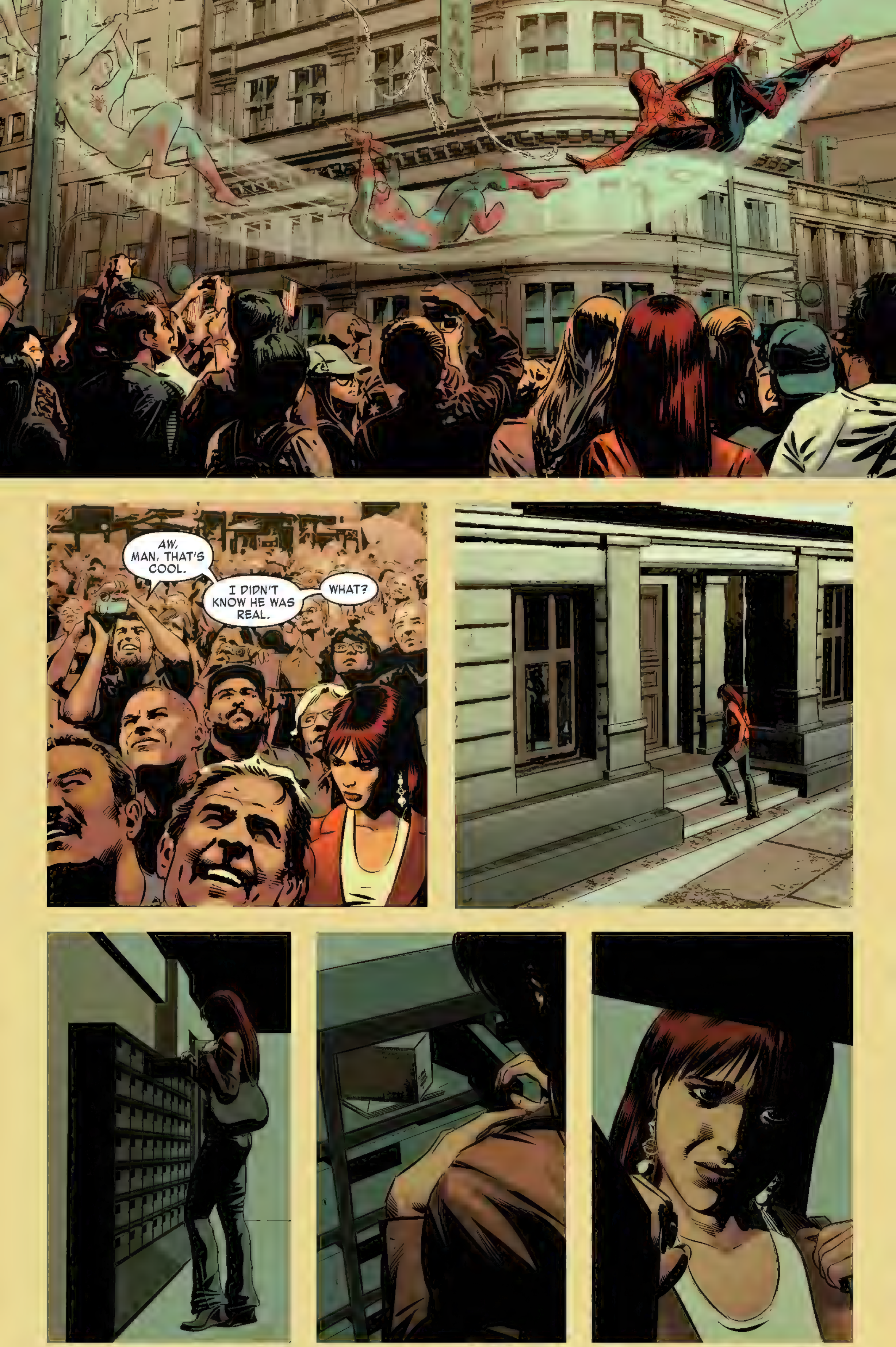

SMAASSSHH
UM...
I AM ZHANG.
WHY DIDN'T YOU ANSWER YOUR DOOR?
UM... OKAY.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY LANDLORD.
YOU WILL COME WITH ME NOW.
YOUR ENGLISH IS VERY GOOD, BUT IF YOU'RE TRYING TO ASK ME OUT, THE PROPER WORDING IS--
NO.
YOU WILL COME WITH ME.
NO, I GOT IT.
I WAS JOKING.
YOU WILL COME WITH ME.
YOU WILL PUT THIS ON.

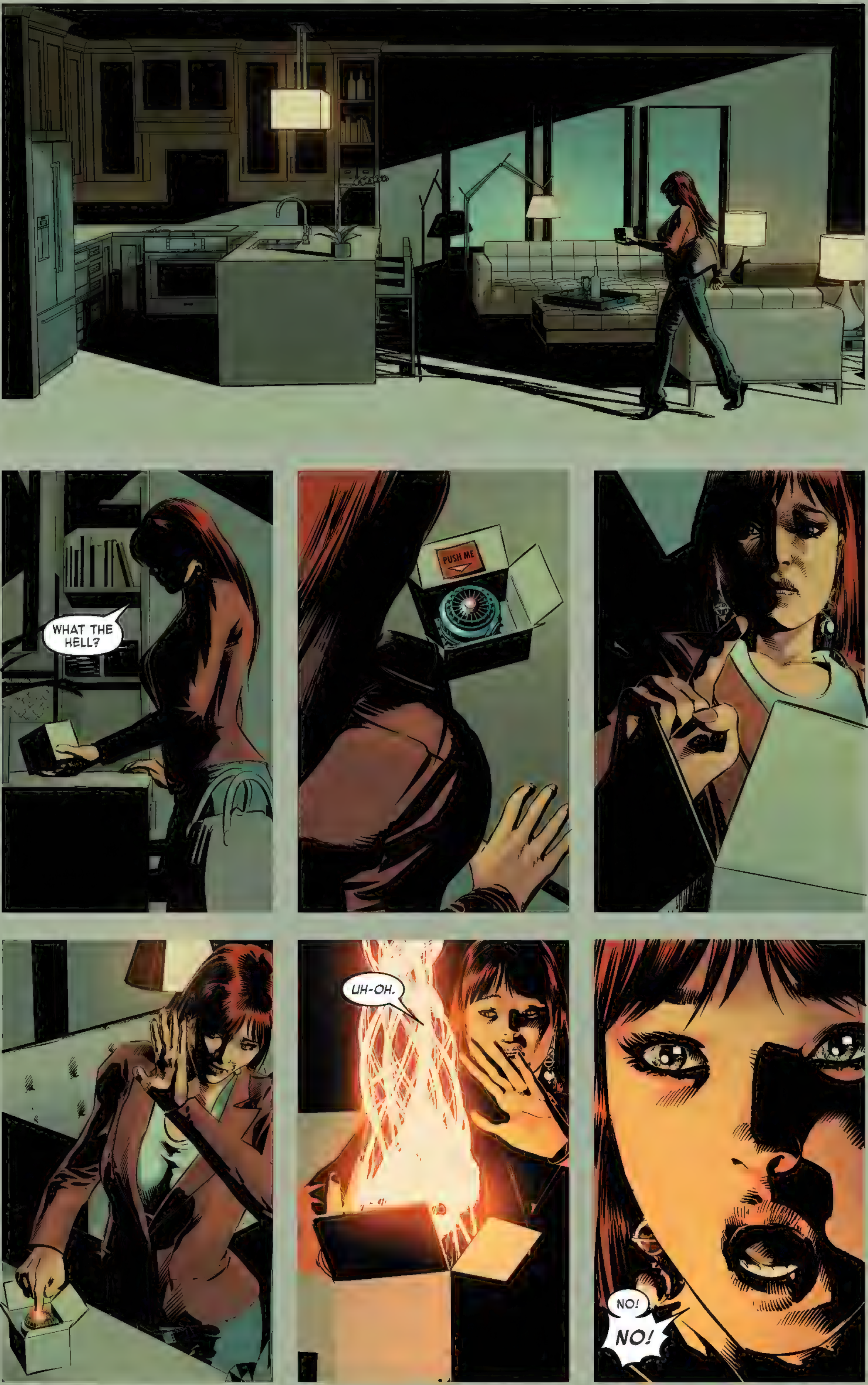

YOU'RE KIDDING.
WHAT IS THIS?
WHO ARE YOU?
DO I OWE SOMEONE MONEY?
YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS?
@#@#$@#!
@#$@#!

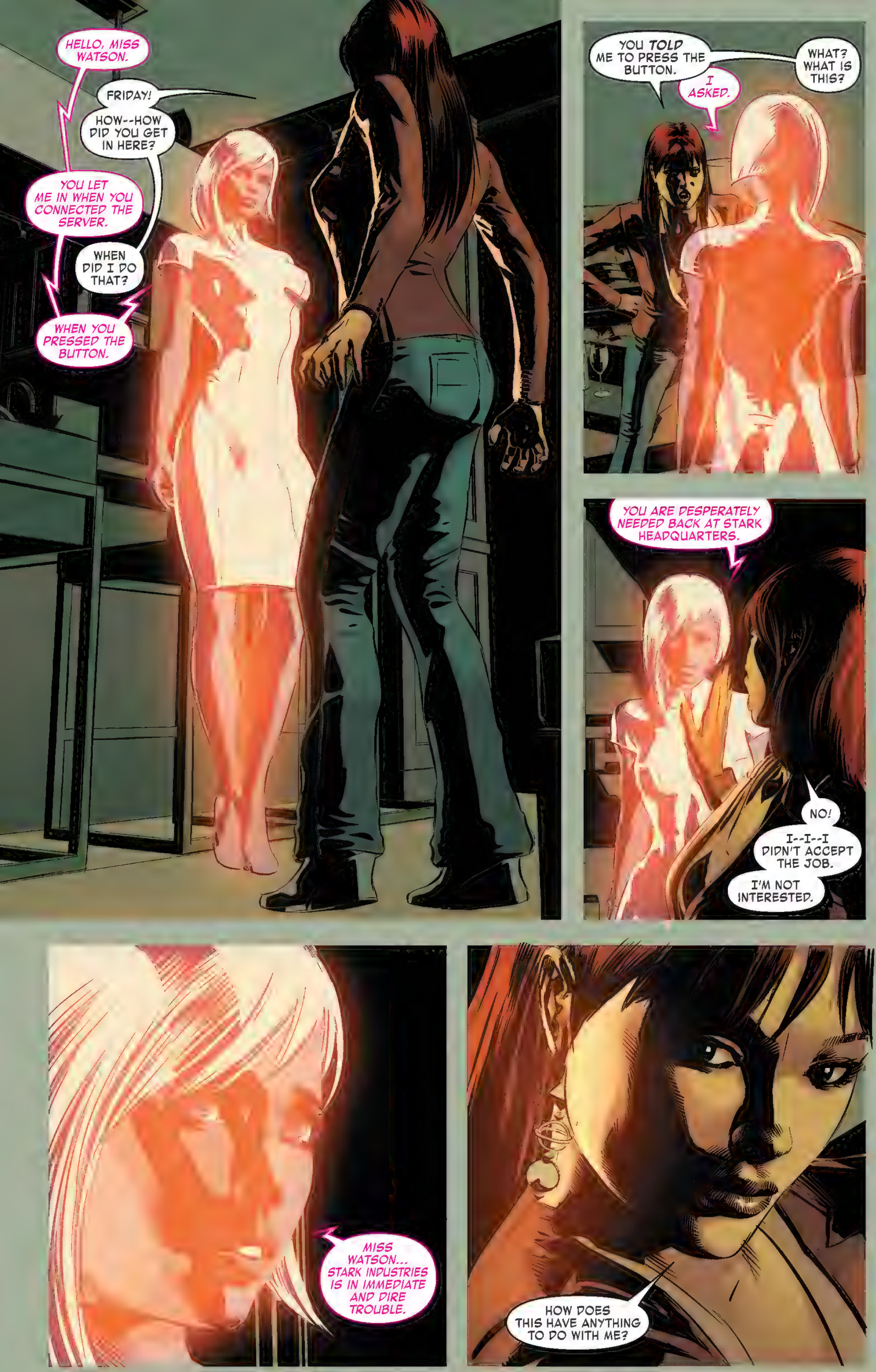

MAN, THIS IS SOME WEIRD @#$@#.
I CAN *HEAR* YOU, YOU KNOW.
I HEAR YOU WALKING AROUND AND WHISPERING IN JAPANESE...
...WHICH I *UNDERSTAND*, BY THE WAY.
MOSTLY.
OH, MAN, IF THIS IS ONE OF THOSE WEIRD JAPANESE GAME SHOWS WHERE THEY SHAVE MY SACK OR SOMETHING...I SWEAR TO GOD!
I--I AM GOING TO SUE YOU IN--IN--IN WORLD COURT!
I MEAN, IF YOU'RE GOING TO--OH.
WHEW.
GOD!
THAT THING *STUNK.*
OKAY, SO, HI.

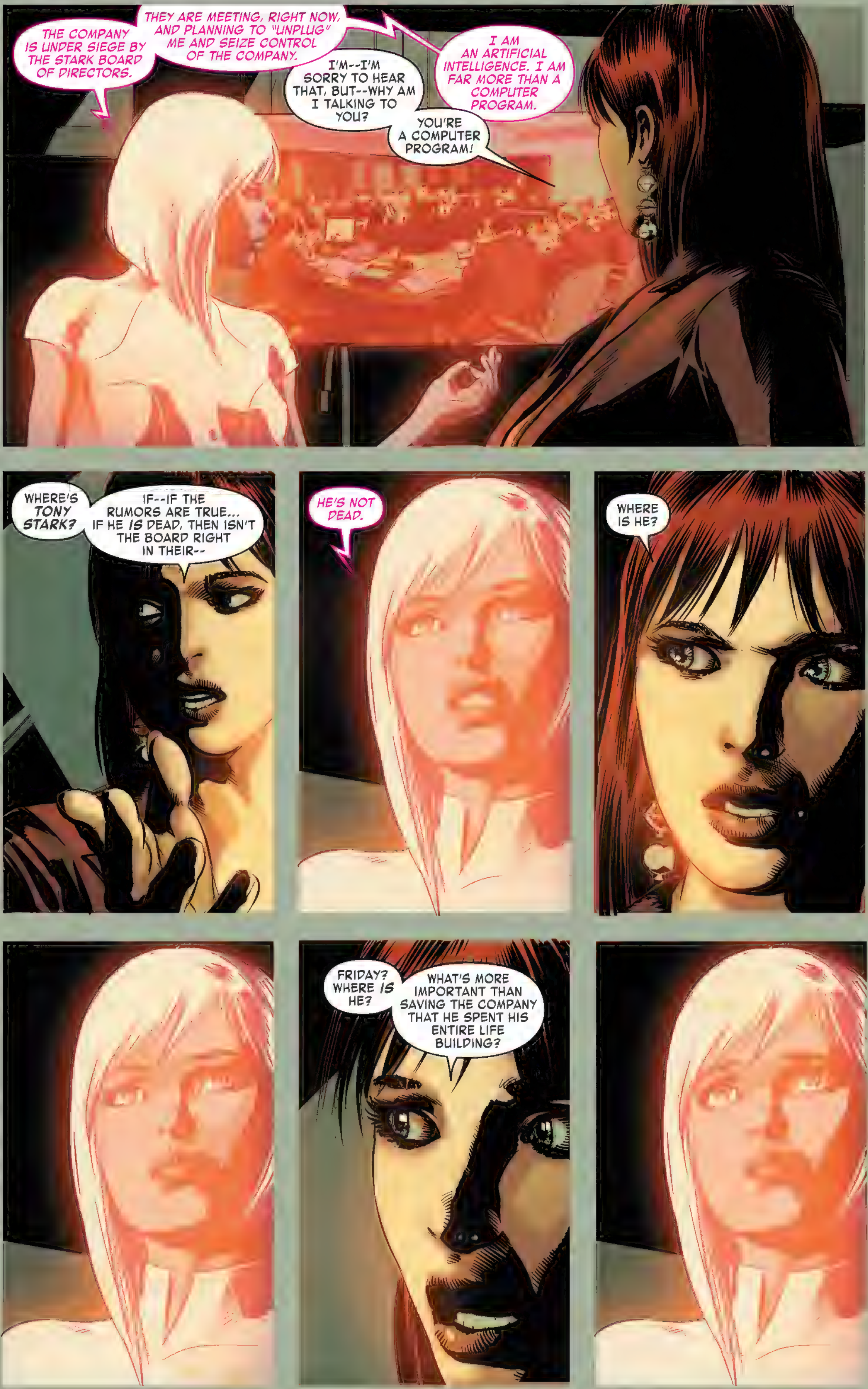

RICHARD FRANCO.
WELCOME.
MY NAME IS *TOMOE.*
JUST ONE NAME? LIKE MADONNA? OR... HULK?
HAVE WE MET?
NO.
I DON'T BELIEVE WE HAVE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?
THE YUKIO CLUB.
OH, HEY, I--I WAS JUST--
YOU WERE A GREAT HELP TO FRIENDS OF OURS.
WELL, *UH,* WHAT IS ALL THIS EXACTLY?
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU WERE A NAVY SEAL, MR. FRANCO.
THEN YOU WERE S.H.I.E.L.D....
YOU READ MY *FILE?*
THAT'S A *BLACK* FILE.
THAT'S-- HOW DID YOU GET ACCESS TO A *S.H.I.E.L.D. BLACK FILE?*
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE TECHNO GOLEM?

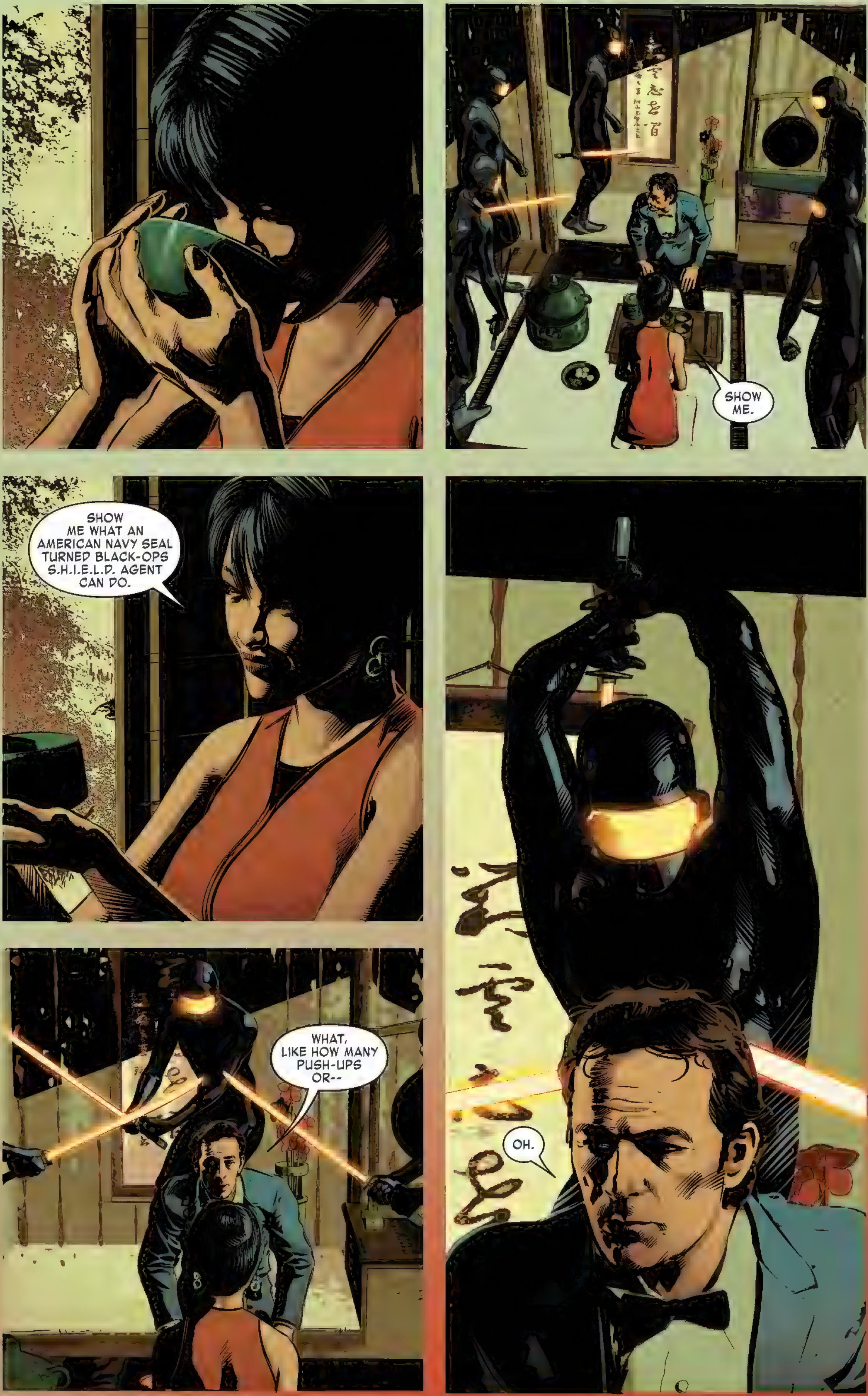

Cebulski's
COFFEE
NEW YORK CITY
THIS IS MARY JANE WATSON CALLING.
OH, REALLY? HE'S *STILL* OUT?
OKAY, FINE. YES, HE KNOWS THE NUMBER.
HE *USED* TO BE MY AGENT.
SOLSTICE
NEW YORK BULLETIN
STARK ASSETS UNDER SIEGE
HEYYO!
THERE HE GOES!

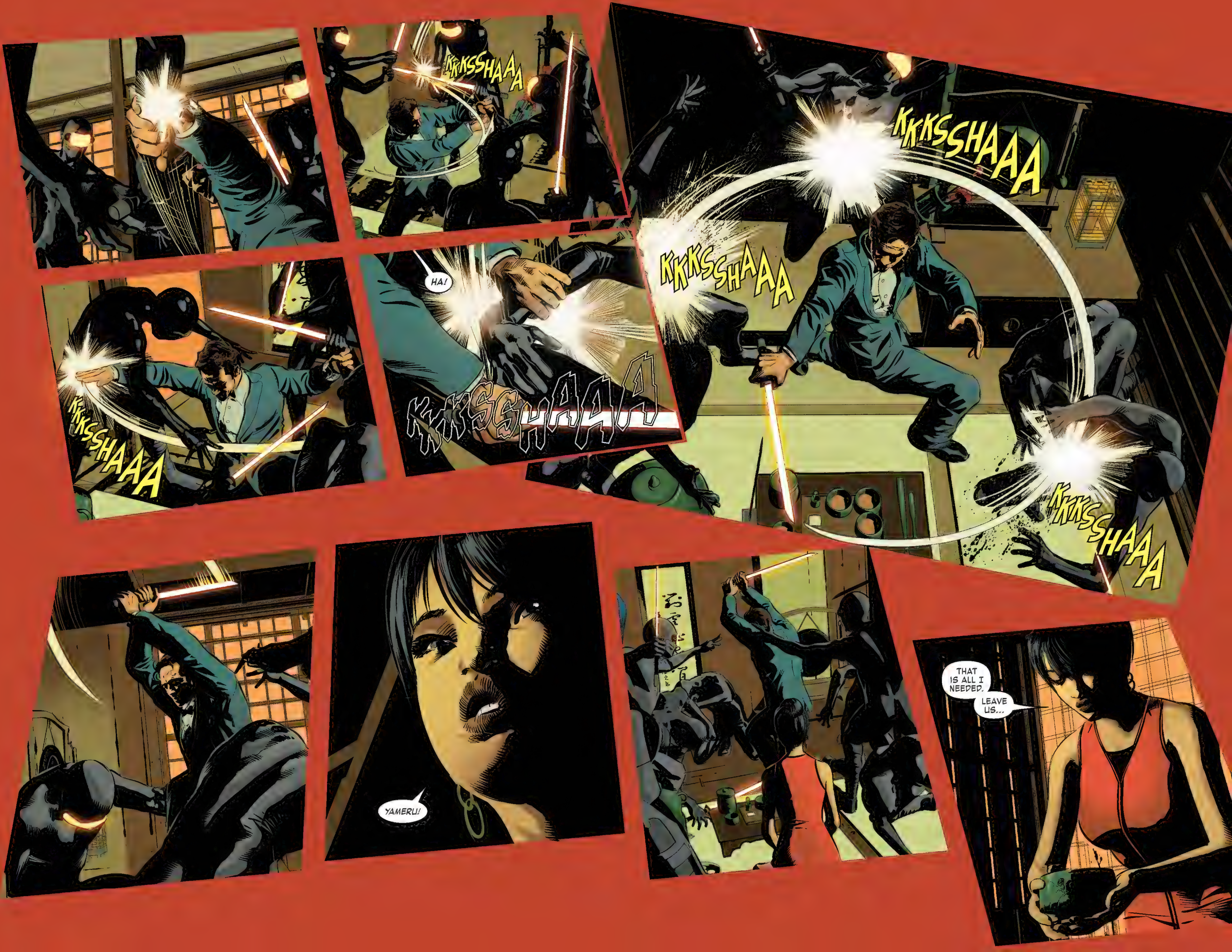

AW, MAN, THAT'S COOL.
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS REAL.
WHAT?

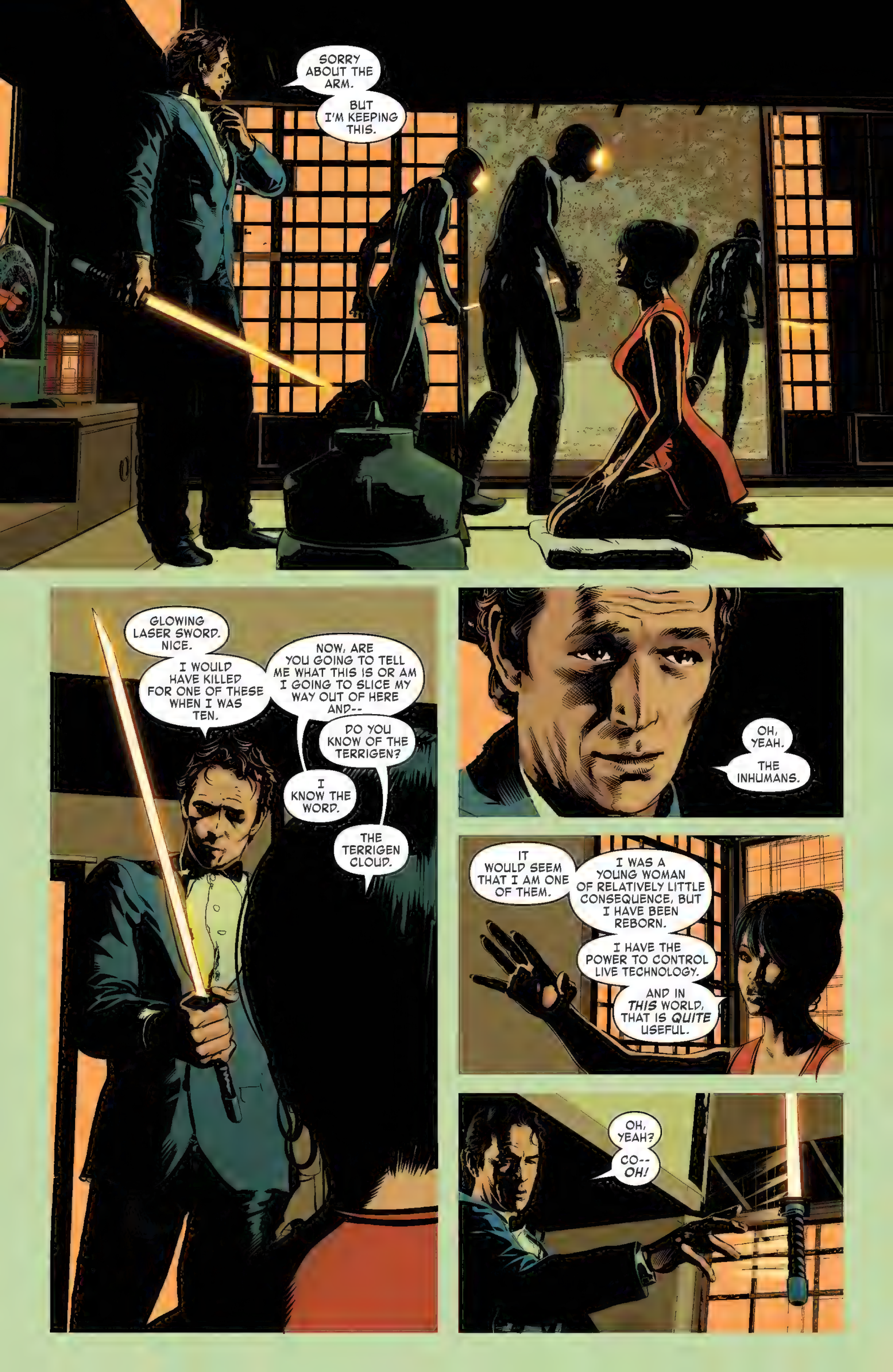

WHAT THE HELL?
PUSH ME
UH-OH.
NO!
NO!

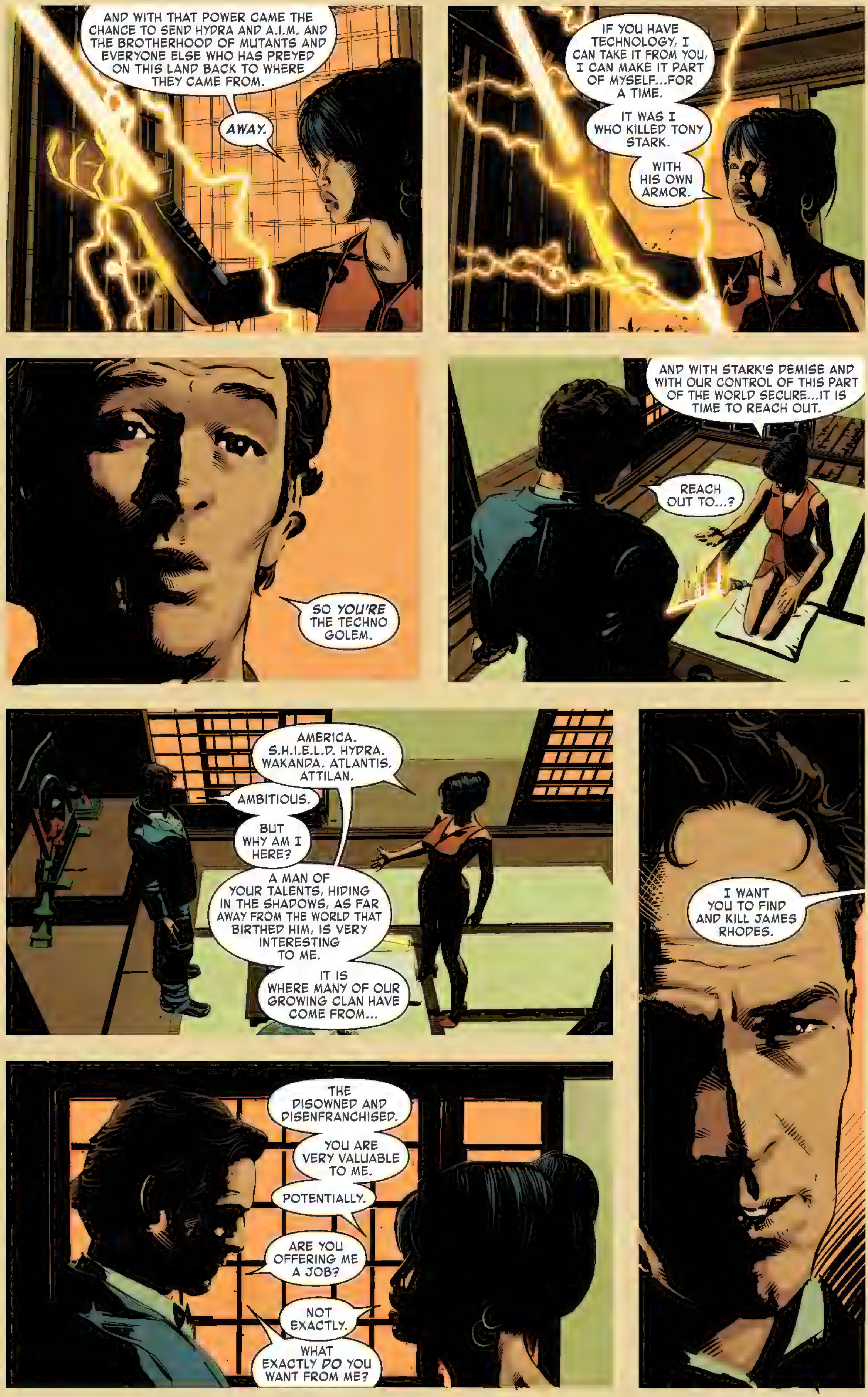

HELLO, MISS WATSON.
FRIDAY!
HOW--HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?
YOU LET ME IN WHEN YOU CONNECTED THE SERVER.
WHEN DID I DO THAT?
WHEN YOU PRESSED THE BUTTON.
YOU *TOLD* ME TO PRESS THE BUTTON.
WHAT? WHAT IS THIS?
I ASKED.
YOU ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED BACK AT STARK HEADQUARTERS.
NO!
I--I--I DIDN'T ACCEPT THE JOB.
I'M NOT INTERESTED.
MISS WATSON... STARK INDUSTRIES IS IN IMMEDIATE AND DIRE TROUBLE.
HOW DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME?

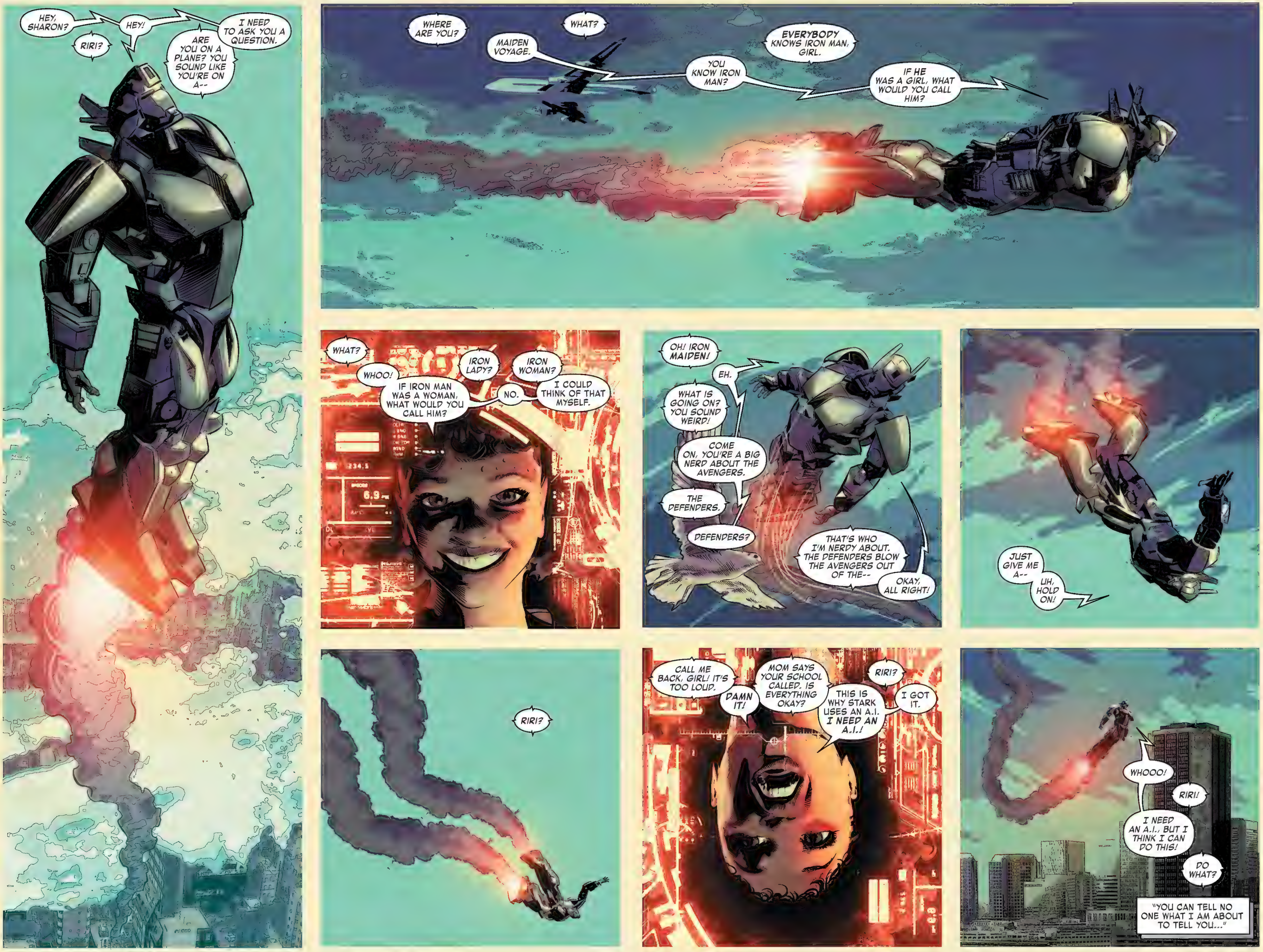

THE COMPANY IS UNDER SIEGE BY THE STARK BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
THEY ARE MEETING, RIGHT NOW, AND PLANNING TO "UNPLUG" ME AND SEIZE CONTROL OF THE COMPANY.
I'M--I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT, BUT--WHY AM I TALKING TO YOU?
YOU'RE A COMPUTER PROGRAM!
I AM AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. I AM FAR MORE THAN A COMPUTER PROGRAM.
WHERE'S *TONY STARK?*
IF--IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE... IF HE *IS* DEAD, THEN ISN'T THE BOARD RIGHT IN THEIR--
HE'S NOT DEAD.
WHERE IS HE?
FRIDAY? WHERE *IS* HE?
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING THE COMPANY THAT HE SPENT HIS ENTIRE LIFE BUILDING?

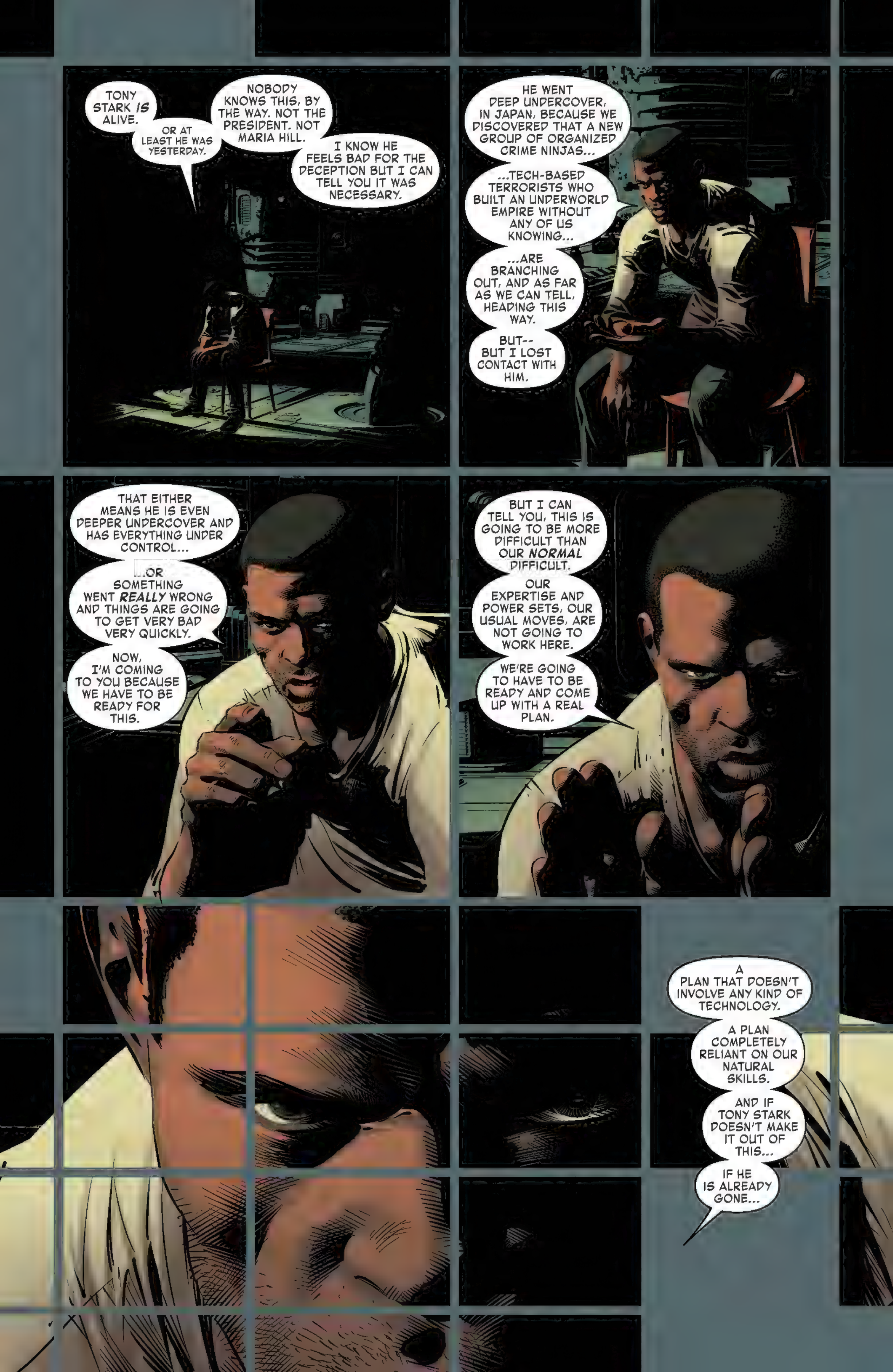

SHOW ME.
SHOW ME WHAT AN AMERICAN NAVY SEAL TURNED BLACK-OPS S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT CAN DO.
WHAT, LIKE HOW MANY PUSH-UPS OR--
OH.


KKKSSHAAA
KKKSSHAAA
HA!
KKKSSHAAA
KKKSSHAAA
KKKSSHAAA
KKKSSHAAA
YAMERU!
THAT IS ALL I NEEDED.
LEAVE US...


SORRY ABOUT THE ARM.
BUT I'M KEEPING THIS.
GLOWING LASER SWORD. NICE.
I WOULD HAVE KILLED FOR ONE OF THESE WHEN I WAS TEN.
NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS OR AM I GOING TO SLICE MY WAY OUT OF HERE AND--
DO YOU KNOW OF THE TERRIGEN?
I KNOW THE WORD.
THE TERRIGEN CLOUD.
OH, YEAH.
THE INHUMANS.
IT WOULD SEEM THAT I AM ONE OF THEM.
I WAS A YOUNG WOMAN OF RELATIVELY LITTLE CONSEQUENCE, BUT I HAVE BEEN REBORN.
I HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL LIVE TECHNOLOGY.
AND IN *THIS* WORLD, THAT IS *QUITE* USEFUL.
OH, YEAH?
CO-- *OH!*


AND WITH THAT POWER CAME THE CHANCE TO SEND HYDRA AND A.I.M. AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF MUTANTS AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO HAS PREYED ON THIS LAND BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM.
AWAY.
IF YOU HAVE TECHNOLOGY, I CAN TAKE IT FROM YOU, I CAN MAKE IT PART OF MYSELF...FOR A TIME.
IT WAS I WHO KILLED TONY STARK.
WITH HIS OWN ARMOR.
SO *YOU'RE* THE TECHNO GOLEM.
AND WITH STARK'S DEMISE AND WITH OUR CONTROL OF THIS PART OF THE WORLD SECURE...IT IS TIME TO REACH OUT.
REACH OUT TO...?
AMERICA. S.H.I.E.L.D. HYDRA. WAKANDA. ATLANTIS. ATTILAN.
AMBITIOUS.
BUT WHY AM I HERE?
A MAN OF YOUR TALENTS, HIDING IN THE SHADOWS, AS FAR AWAY FROM THE WORLD THAT BIRTHED HIM, IS VERY INTERESTING TO ME.
IT IS WHERE MANY OF OUR GROWING CLAN HAVE COME FROM...
THE DISOWNED AND DISENFRANCHISED.
YOU ARE VERY VALUABLE TO ME.
POTENTIALLY.
ARE YOU OFFERING ME A JOB?
NOT EXACTLY.
WHAT EXACTLY *DO* YOU WANT FROM ME?
I WANT YOU TO FIND AND KILL JAMES RHODES.


HEY, SHARON?
RIRI?
HEY!
I NEED TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.
ARE YOU ON A PLANE? YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE ON A--
WHERE ARE YOU?
MAIDEN VOYAGE.
WHAT?
YOU KNOW IRON MAN?
EVERYBODY KNOWS IRON MAN, GIRL.
IF HE WAS A GIRL, WHAT WOULD YOU CALL HIM?
WHAT?
WHOO!
IF IRON MAN WAS A WOMAN, WHAT WOULD YOU CALL HIM?
IRON LADY?
NO.
IRON WOMAN?
I COULD THINK OF THAT MYSELF.
OH! IRON MAIDEN!
EH.
WHAT IS GOING ON? YOU SOUND WEIRD!
COME ON, YOU'RE A BIG NERD ABOUT THE AVENGERS.
THE DEFENDERS.
DEFENDERS?
THAT'S WHO I'M NERDY ABOUT. THE DEFENDERS BLOW THE AVENGERS OUT OF THE--
OKAY, ALL RIGHT!
JUST GIVE ME A--
UH, HOLD ON!
RIRI?
CALL ME BACK, GIRL! IT'S TOO LOUD.
DAMN IT!
MOM SAYS YOUR SCHOOL CALLED. IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
RIRI?
THIS IS WHY STARK USES AN A.I. I NEED AN A.I.!
I GOT IT.
WHOOO!
RIRI!
I NEED AN A.I., BUT I THINK I CAN DO THIS!
DO WHAT?
"YOU CAN TELL NO ONE WHAT I AM ABOUT TO TELL YOU..."


TONY STARK *IS* ALIVE.
OR AT LEAST HE WAS YESTERDAY.
NOBODY KNOWS THIS, BY THE WAY. NOT THE PRESIDENT. NOT MARIA HILL.
I KNOW HE FEELS BAD FOR THE DECEPTION BUT I CAN TELL YOU IT WAS NECESSARY.
HE WENT DEEP UNDERCOVER, IN JAPAN, BECAUSE WE DISCOVERED THAT A NEW GROUP OF ORGANIZED CRIME NINJAS...
...TECH-BASED TERRORISTS WHO BUILT AN UNDERWORLD EMPIRE WITHOUT ANY OF US KNOWING...
...ARE BRANCHING OUT, AND AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, HEADING THIS WAY.
BUT-- BUT I LOST CONTACT WITH HIM.
THAT EITHER MEANS HE IS EVEN DEEPER UNDERCOVER AND HAS EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL...
...OR SOMETHING WENT *REALLY* WRONG AND THINGS ARE GOING TO GET VERY BAD VERY QUICKLY.
NOW, I'M COMING TO YOU BECAUSE WE HAVE TO BE READY FOR THIS.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU, THIS IS GOING TO BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN OUR *NORMAL* DIFFICULT.
OUR EXPERTISE AND POWER SETS, OUR USUAL MOVES, ARE NOT GOING TO WORK HERE.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE READY AND COME UP WITH A REAL PLAN.
A PLAN THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE ANY KIND OF TECHNOLOGY.
A PLAN COMPLETELY RELIANT ON OUR NATURAL SKILLS.
AND IF TONY STARK DOESN'T MAKE IT OUT OF THIS...
IF HE IS ALREADY GONE...

...WE HAVE TO BE READY TO AVENGE HIM.
COOL.
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO JAPAN.
FOCUS.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

Who is Riri Williams? What does Tomoe want? Will MJ be able to save Tony's company, and can the Avengers save Tony? These are just a few questions I'm not going to answer right now (keep reading, you punks!), but I will answer your other questions. So welcome back, Shell-Heads! Let's get to it!

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #7 and #8 were the best issues of IRON MAN that I have read in a long time (my first comic book ever was IRON MAN #242). Keep up the great work, but I have one request for all books in general. PLEASE bring back the classic thought balloons! An example: Spider-Man swinging through Tokyo looking for Rhodey and talking to himself just reads wrong without them. These pages would read so much better as his internal thoughts rather than out loud. The thought rectangle isn't much better. Comic books without those classic, bubbly thought balloons just don't seem right to me! Mmkay, rant over. On to the next comic!

Jeremiah Tilley

You know, Jeremiah, a few weeks ago we in the office actually mused about why thought balloons went out of style. I'm personally in favor of captions because rectangle shapes make me feel safe, but hey, in a world where rompers are in style again, maybe bubbly thought balloons can make a comeback, too.

Note to IRON MAN colorists--Tony Stark has blue eyes. Robert Downey Jr. has brown eyes. Robert Downey Jr. portrays Tony Stark on the screen, not the other way around. Please explain Tony's eye transplants, or color them blue.

Thanks,
Nick Smiles

Tony Stark's company is actually underwater because he's been investing heavily in color contacts. Friday's begged him to stop but he never will. He never will.

Hey guys!

I wasn't very sure about getting this book because I haven't been that big a fan of Iron Man in the past. But I picked up the first trade of this and I absolutely love it! So far, I think my favorite part is the scene at the hospital with all the little kids and Tony brings not one, but all the suits. I'm really interested in how Mary Jane gets more fleshed out than just a SPIDER-MAN character. The new armor is the best that has ever been made. It saves a ton of space and turns into an awesome samurai! And kudos to David Marquez and Mike Deodato for drawing the suit so well! I can't wait to see how this turns out and how all the shakeups from CIVIL WAR II go down!

Sincerely,
Cy Beltran

Prepare to be very shaken up then, Cy, because we're going to put Tony through the wringer like he's never been wrung before. And that really sounds like an innuendo but maybe if you could just see me saying that sentence with an open, innocent face, you would know that no innuendo was intended. Or you'd just think I'm a naïve weirdo who knows nothing of the world, which is also true.

Friends,

What, MJ has been on the job five minutes and she quits? Despite the fact that Tony Stark needs her more than he even knows? She can't handle his style? I don't buy that--MJ can handle anything. Anybody. Heck, even Friday needs her, and for the same reasons that MJ decided to quit. What MJ needs is a personal stake in the situation and a reason to care. I hope she finds it: she's too good to lose.

Spider-Man feeling spaced-out from jet lag is even more fun that Spidey in his normal state, though it might be hard to tell the difference sometimes.

Good moment: seeing Spidey's face reflected in Iron Man's helmet. Even better moment: seeing Tony's Iron Man technology snatched from him.

That Bendis-Deodato team is just delicious.

Namaste,
Elizabeth Holden

I mean, I can *handle* working retail but it doesn't mean I want to (she whispers so that the world of retail can't hear her and drag her back in). Still, I don't know that she's done with the Stark world just yet, Elizabeth…

Hello again to the Marvelous Makers of Marvel (having all capitals makes you guys feel special), and again, the IRON MAN series is great. I just read #7 and I love the conversation between Tony and MJ about Pepper and Peter, and I hope we see more development to CIVIL WAR II in the series. One sad notion about it will be that everybody thinks Tony is the bad guy, which he isn't, but he needs to keep in mind an old saying: "Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?" which means, "Who will guard the guards?" So Tony must consider that if the Avengers become the protectors of humanity, who will protect humanity from them? Also, I wanted to say thank you to Alanna Smith for the wonderful reply to my previous letter.

Henry Spruill

Ninja Turtle friend, you've returned! And You Are Absolutely Right That All Capitals Make Us Feel Special, though it sounds to me like you're trying to attract the attention of a Certain Movie Director with that quote…

Hi,

It was another interesting issue of IRON MAN. I hope to find out soon who Tony Stark's parents are. I was a little bit disappointed to see that Howard and Maria Stark are not his parents, so I hope to see when you guys finally do decide to have his real parents either show up, or if they are dead, he finds out who they were. They could be very interesting characters.

Tony is a natural flirt. I hope to see Tony hit on Mary Jane a few times. After all, he is only human. Mary Jane Watson is a super model taking a break from the business. I am sure her name still means something to the modeling world, as well to the acting world. Love to see Mary Jane still go to those fabulous parties and still be a star within the business. I thought by now you guys would have given Mary Jane her own monthly book, as well as super-powers and fighting abilities.

I love seeing the old War Machine look back. I hope to see Rescue also get some new upgrades in her armor.

King Jason

Well, Your Majesty, if you'd like to find out who Tony's parents are, make sure you're also reading INTERNATIONAL IRON MAN--Tony's actively looking for them in that book--he could stumble across them any issue now!

Dear INVINCIBLE IRON MAN team,

Have been a longtime Iron Man fanatic (long before Downey Jr. suited up) and comic reader. I have to say I am really loving this new series, especially issues #6 and #7, which have left me thirsty for more! Have never written in before so thought it be rude not to as Bendis has yet again created another great story arc and I can't wait to see where it goes. Deodato's art is simply beautiful (will have to check out his other stuff) and together they are perfectly paired for storytelling. Last time I was this excited for the next issue was on Matt Fraction's INVINCIBLE IRON MAN run with "World's Most Wanted."

So if I'm saying anything it's keep up the great work, although I'm sure these guys will.

Garry Blackie

Thanks, Garry, glad to hear you're enjoying it!

And that's all we've got room for this time! Keep sending your letters to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and I'll keep hoping and praying that I'm entertaining enough to answer them. And don't forget to mark them "Okay to Print," otherwise I just have to delete them and cry. You don't want me to cry, do you?

Until next time!

-The Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT ISSUE:

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR II

BENDIS • DEODATO • MARTIN

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION

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- FAKE YOUR DEATH AND DISGUISE YOURSELF AS EX-S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT FRANCO TO INFILTRATE THE TERRORIST CELL OF BIOHACK NINJAS RUN BY TOMOE, A.K.A. THE TECHNO GOLEM.

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DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY

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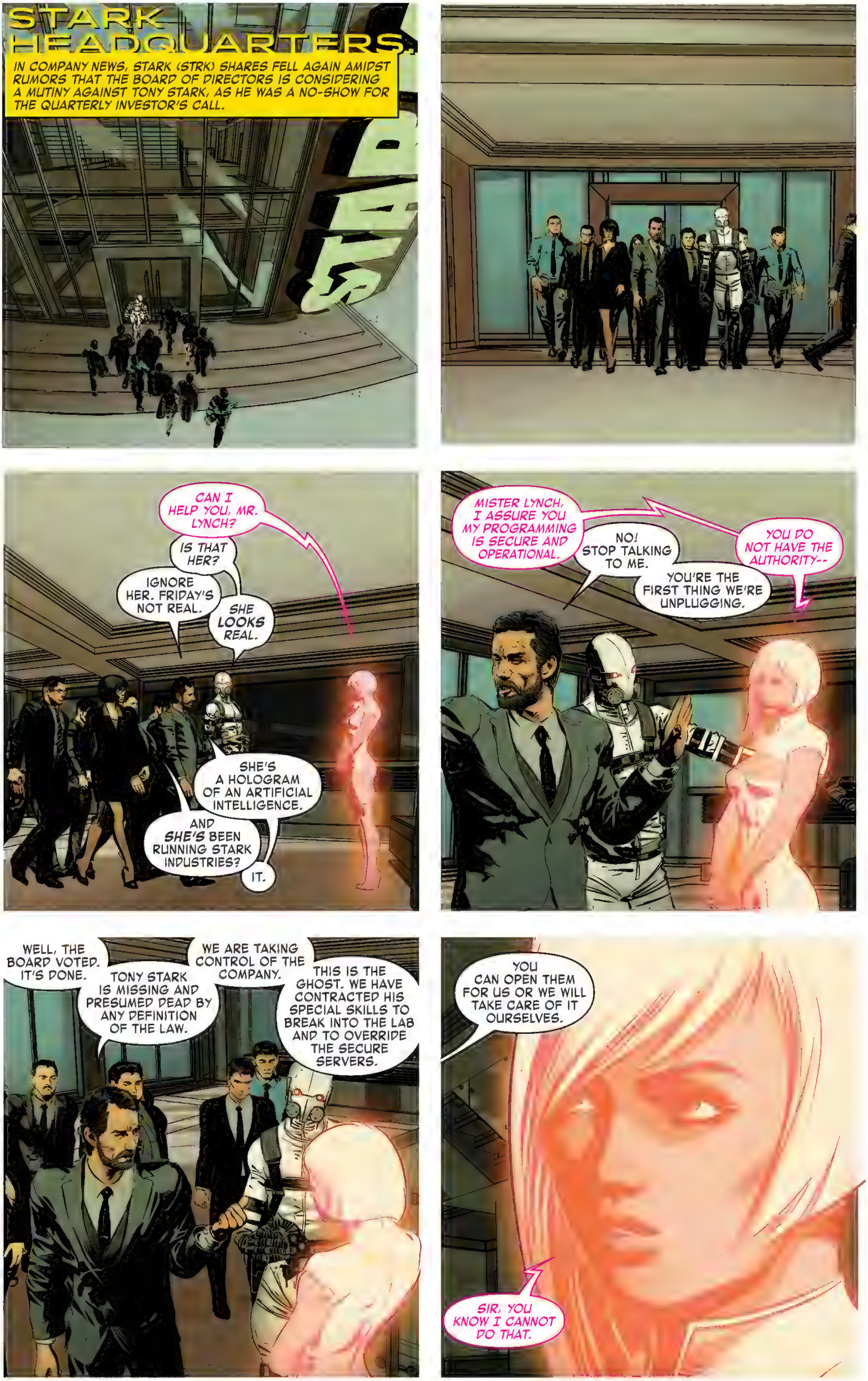
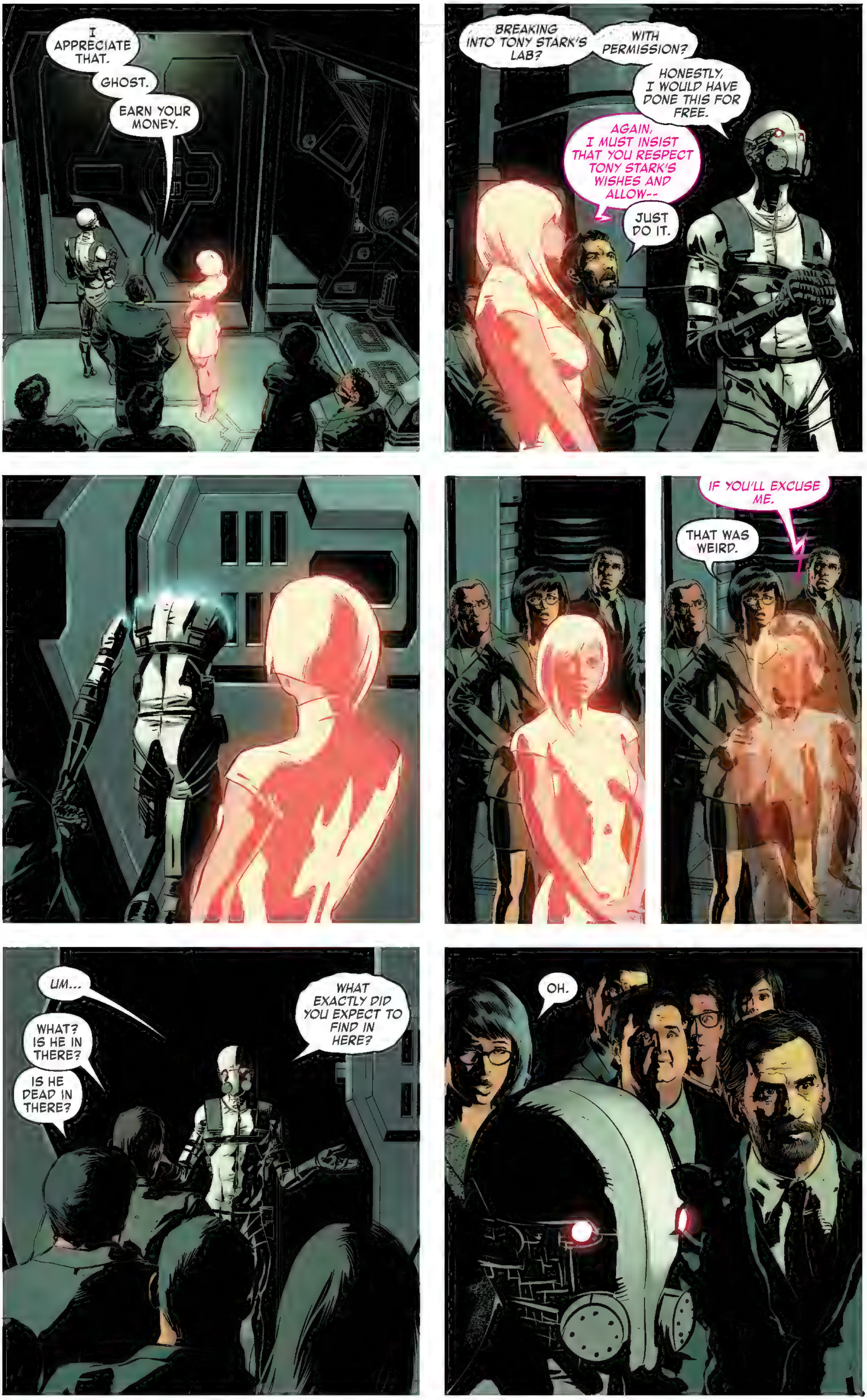
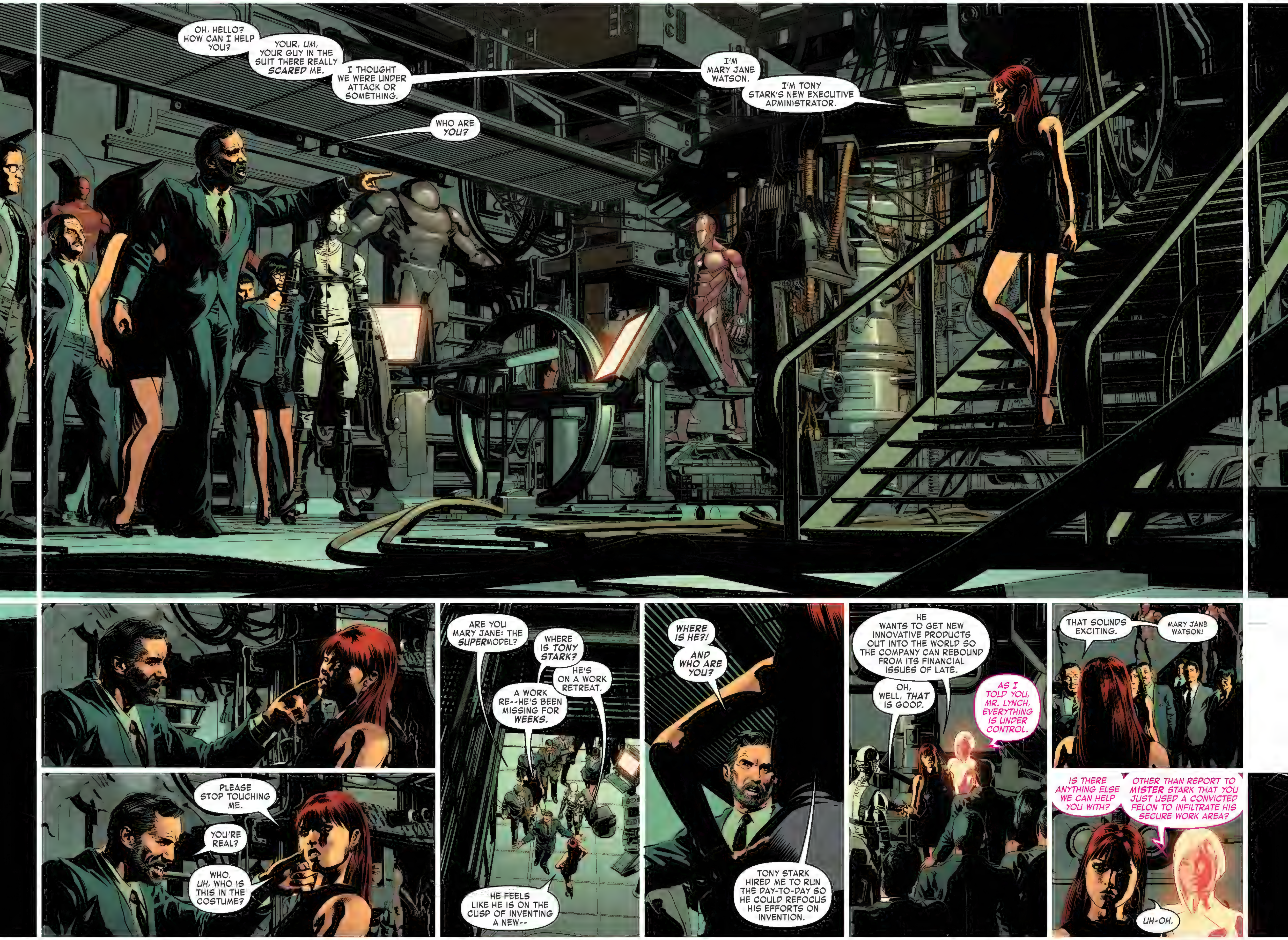
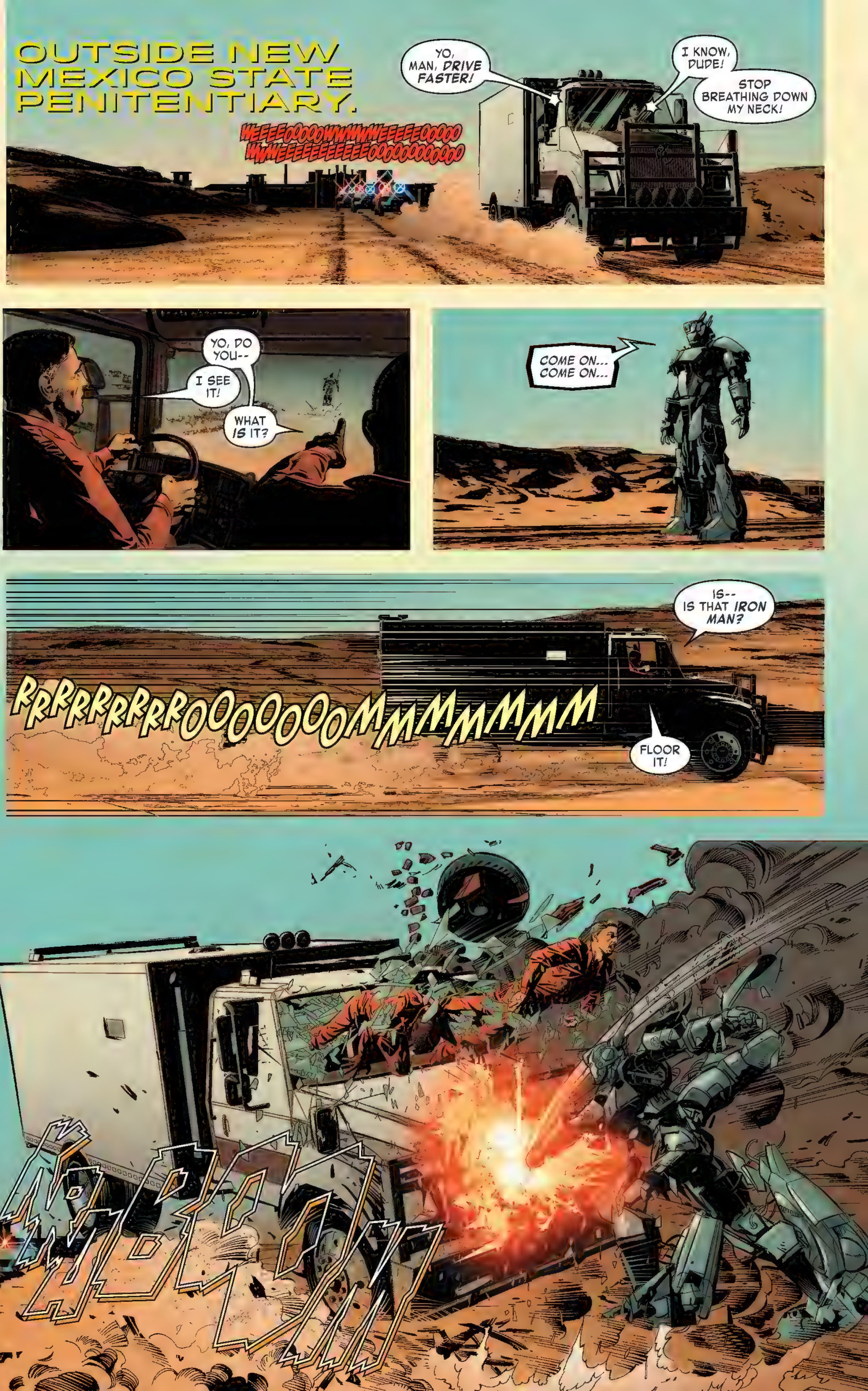
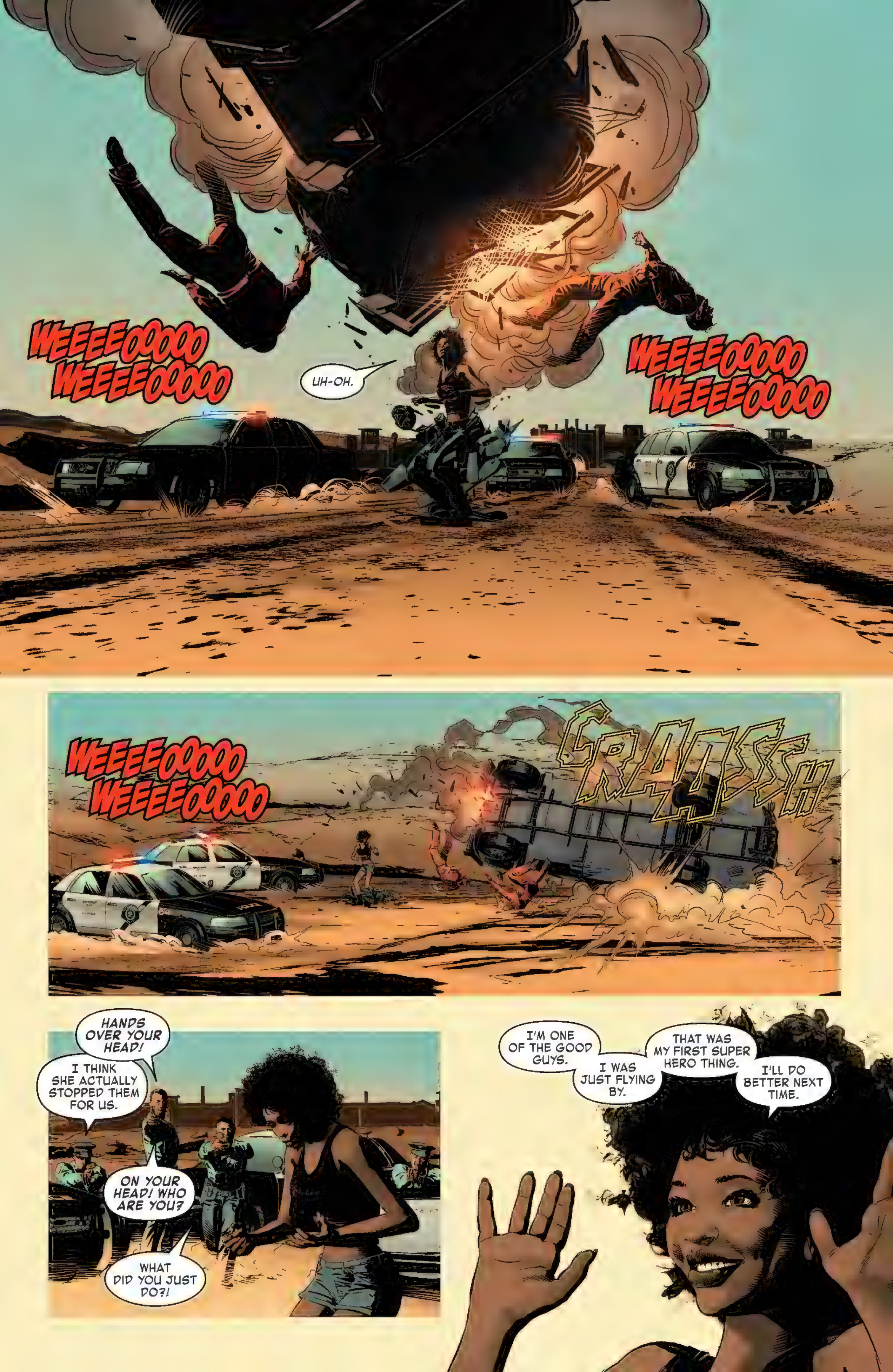

STARK HEADQUARTERS.
IN COMPANY NEWS, STARK (STRK) SHARES FELL AGAIN AMIDST RUMORS THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS CONSIDERING A MUTINY AGAINST TONY STARK, AS HE WAS A NO-SHOW FOR THE QUARTERLY INVESTOR'S CALL.
CAN I HELP YOU, MR. LYNCH?
IS THAT HER?
IGNORE HER. FRIDAY'S NOT REAL.
SHE LOOKS REAL.
SHE'S A HOLOGRAM OF AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.
AND SHE'S BEEN RUNNING STARK INDUSTRIES?
IT.
MISTER LYNCH, I ASSURE YOU MY PROGRAMMING IS SECURE AND OPERATIONAL.
NO! STOP TALKING TO ME.
YOU DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY--
YOU'RE THE FIRST THING WE'RE UNPLUGGING.
WELL, THE BOARD VOTED. IT'S DONE.
TONY STARK IS MISSING AND PRESUMED DEAD BY ANY DEFINITION OF THE LAW.
WE ARE TAKING CONTROL OF THE COMPANY.
THIS IS THE GHOST. WE HAVE CONTRACTED HIS SPECIAL SKILLS TO BREAK INTO THE LAB AND TO OVERRIDE THE SECURE SERVERS.
YOU CAN OPEN THEM FOR US OR WE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT OURSELVES.
SIR, YOU KNOW I CANNOT DO THAT.

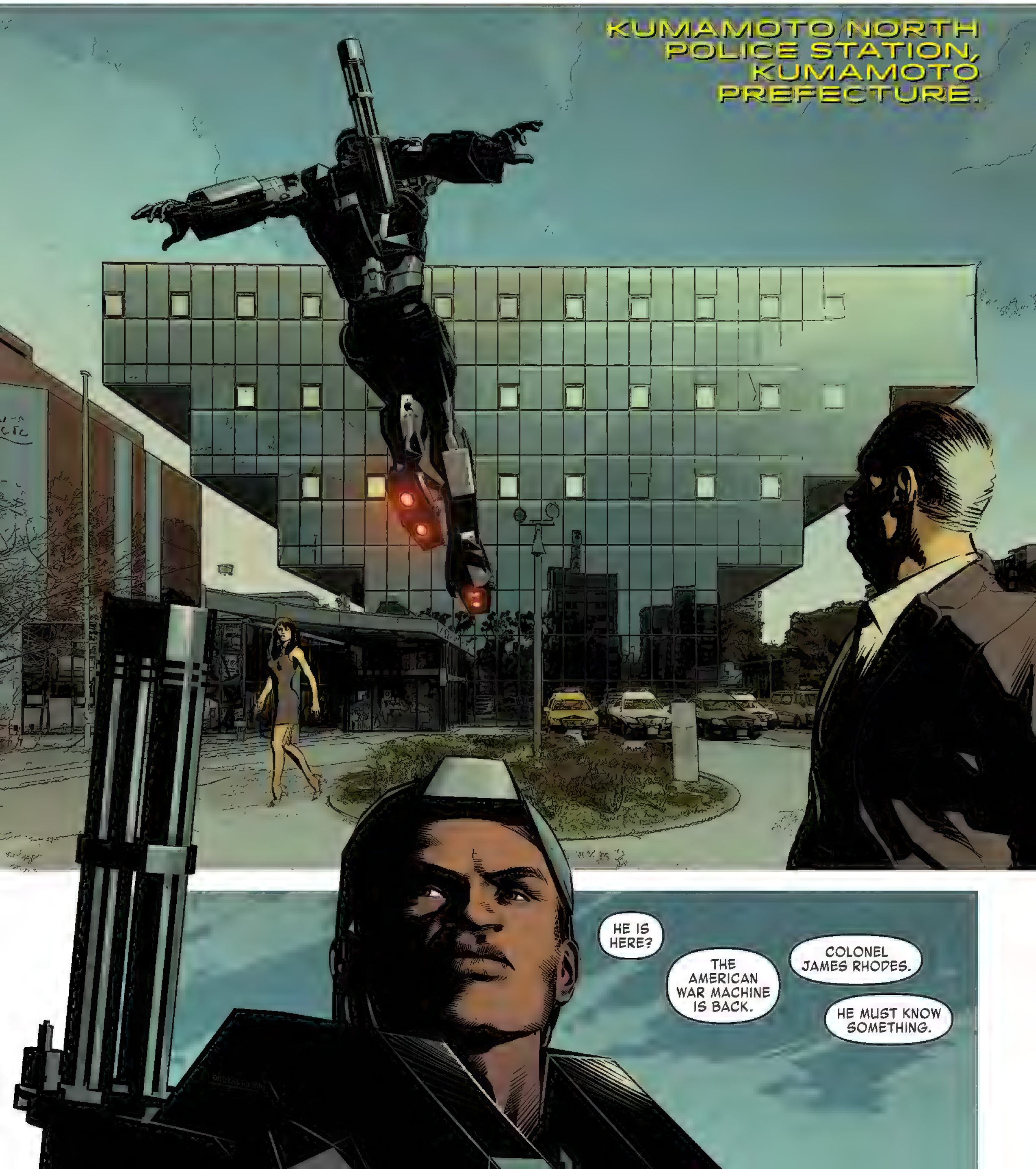

I APPRECIATE THAT.
GHOST.
EARN YOUR MONEY.
BREAKING INTO TONY STARK'S LAB?
WITH PERMISSION?
HONESTLY, I WOULD HAVE DONE THIS FOR FREE.
AGAIN, I MUST INSIST THAT YOU RESPECT TONY STARK'S WISHES AND ALLOW--
JUST DO IT.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
THAT WAS WEIRD.
UM...
WHAT? IS HE IN THERE?
IS HE DEAD IN THERE?
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND IN HERE?
OH.

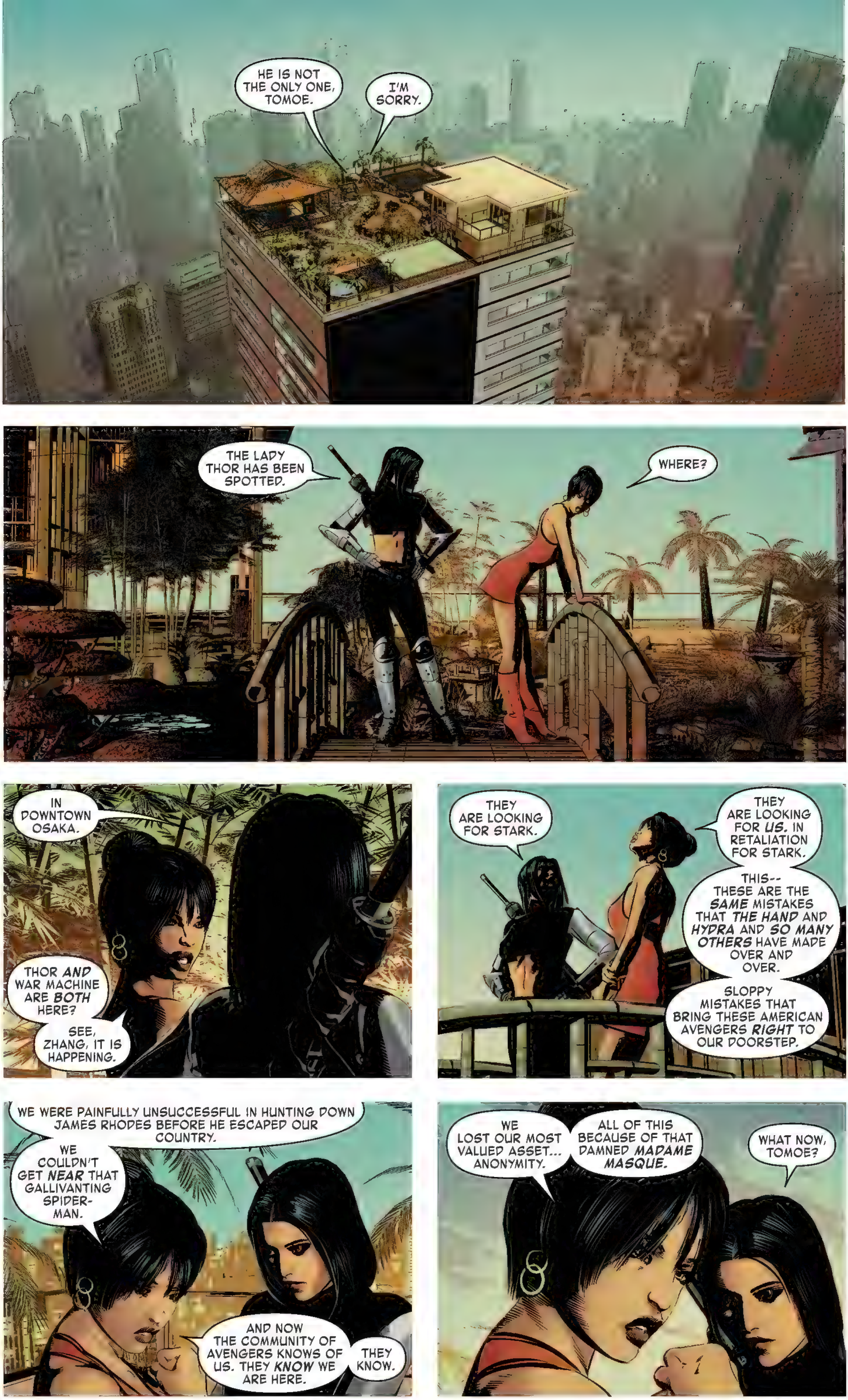

OH, HELLO? HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
YOUR, *UM*, YOUR GUY IN THE SUIT THERE REALLY *SCARED* ME.
I THOUGHT WE WERE UNDER ATTACK OR SOMETHING.
I'M MARY JANE WATSON.
I'M TONY STARK'S NEW EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR.
WHO ARE *YOU?*
PLEASE STOP TOUCHING ME.
YOU'RE REAL?
WHO, *UH*, WHO IS THIS IN THE COSTUME?
ARE YOU MARY JANE: THE *SUPER*MODEL?
WHERE IS *TONY STARK?*
HE'S ON A WORK RETREAT.
A WORK RE--HE'S BEEN MISSING FOR *WEEKS.*
HE FEELS LIKE HE IS ON THE CUSP OF INVENTING A NEW--
WHERE IS HE?!
AND WHO ARE *YOU?*
TONY STARK HIRED ME TO RUN THE DAY-TO-DAY SO HE COULD REFOCUS HIS EFFORTS ON INVENTION.
HE WANTS TO GET NEW INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS OUT INTO THE WORLD SO THE COMPANY CAN REBOUND FROM ITS FINANCIAL ISSUES OF LATE.
OH, WELL, *THAT* IS GOOD.
AS I TOLD YOU, MR. LYNCH, EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL.
THAT SOUNDS EXCITING.
MARY JANE WATSON!
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN HELP YOU WITH?
OTHER THAN REPORT TO *MISTER* STARK THAT YOU JUST USED A CONVICTED FELON TO INFILTRATE HIS SECURE WORK AREA?
UH-OH.

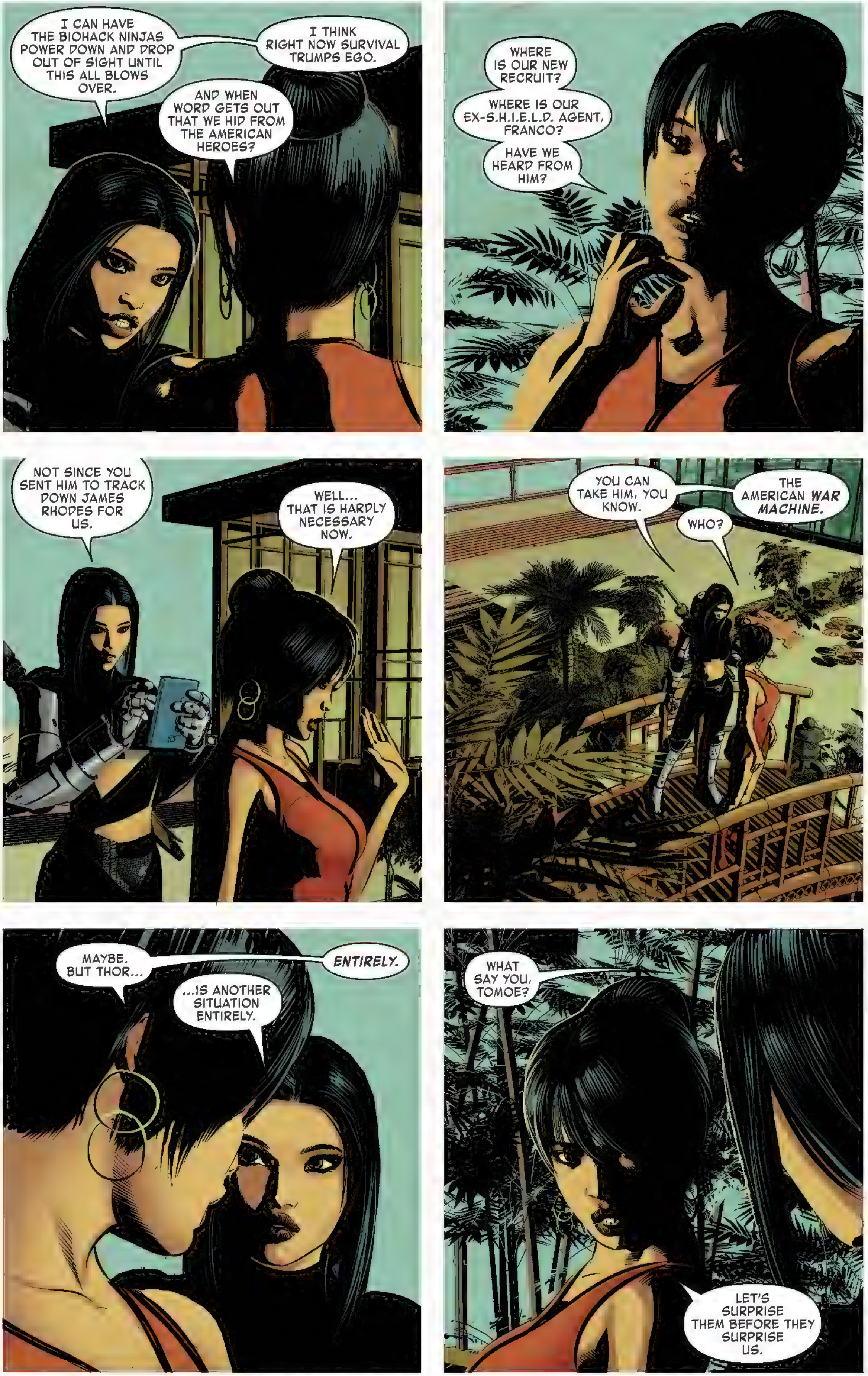

OUTSIDE NEW MEXICO STATE PENITENTIARY.
WEEEEOOOOOWWWWWEEEEEOOOO
WWWEEEEEEEEEEOOOOOOOOOOO
YO, MAN, DRIVE FASTER!
I KNOW, DUDE!
STOP BREATHING DOWN MY NECK!
YO, DO YOU--
I SEE IT!
WHAT IS IT?
COME ON... COME ON...
IS-- IS THAT IRON MAN?
RRRRRRRRROOOOOOOMMMMMMM
FLOOR IT!
KABOOM

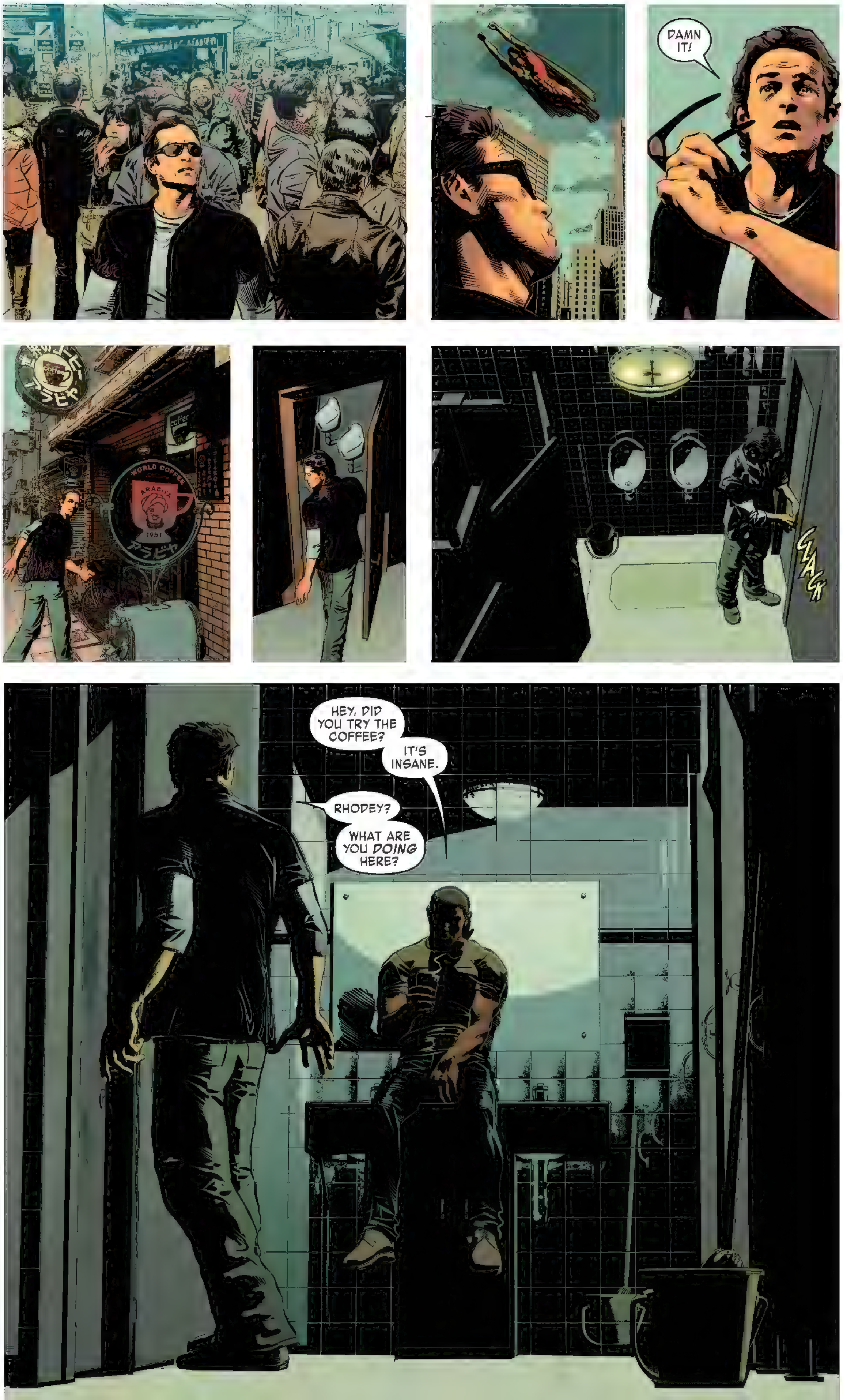

WEEEEOOOOO
WEEEEOOOOO
UH-OH.
WEEEEOOOOO
WEEEEOOOOO
WEEEEOOOOO
WEEEEOOOOO
CRAASSH
HANDS OVER YOUR HEAD!
I THINK SHE ACTUALLY STOPPED THEM FOR US.
ON YOUR HEAD! WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!
I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
I WAS JUST FLYING BY.
THAT WAS MY FIRST SUPER HERO THING.
I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME.

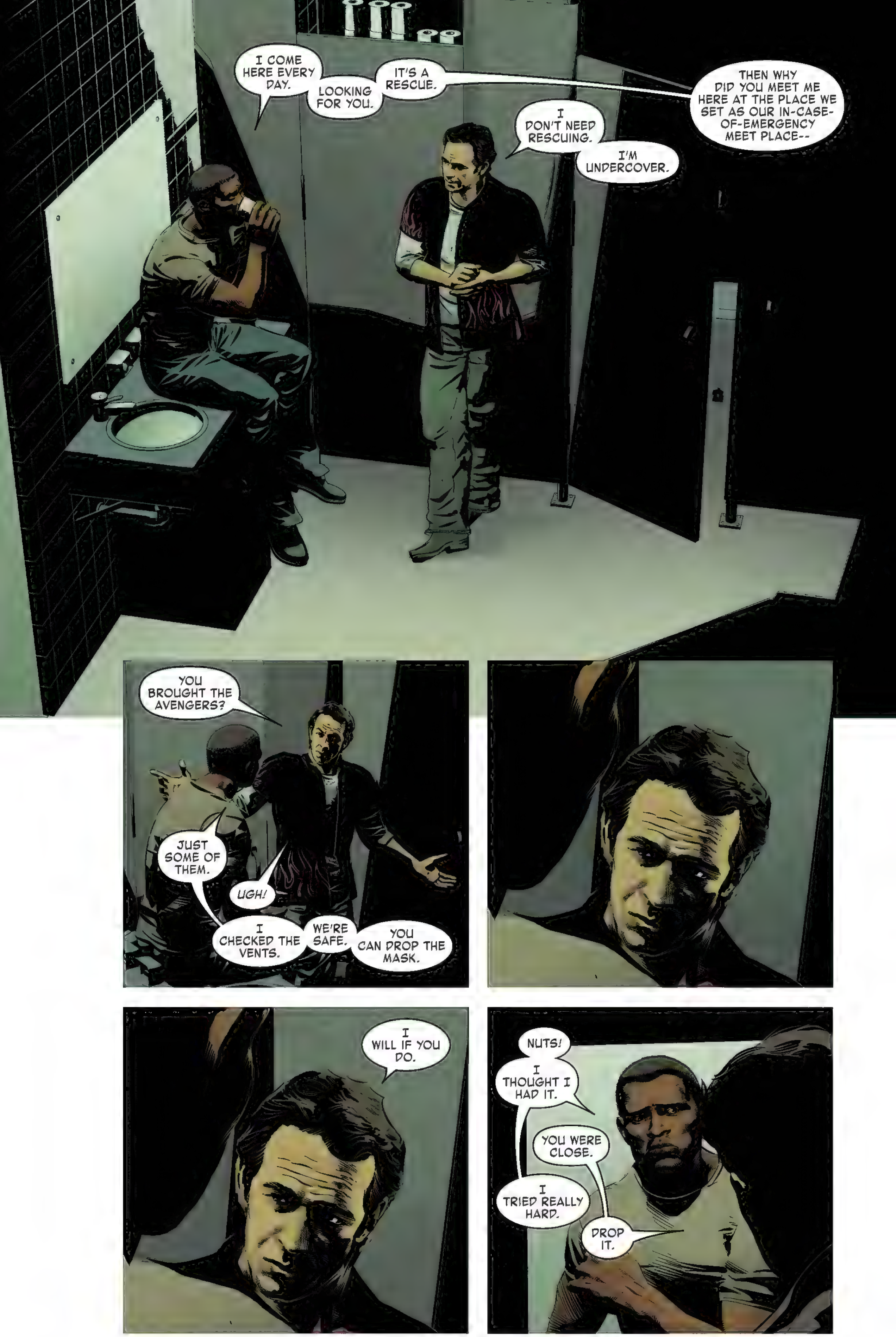
OSAKA,
JAPAN.

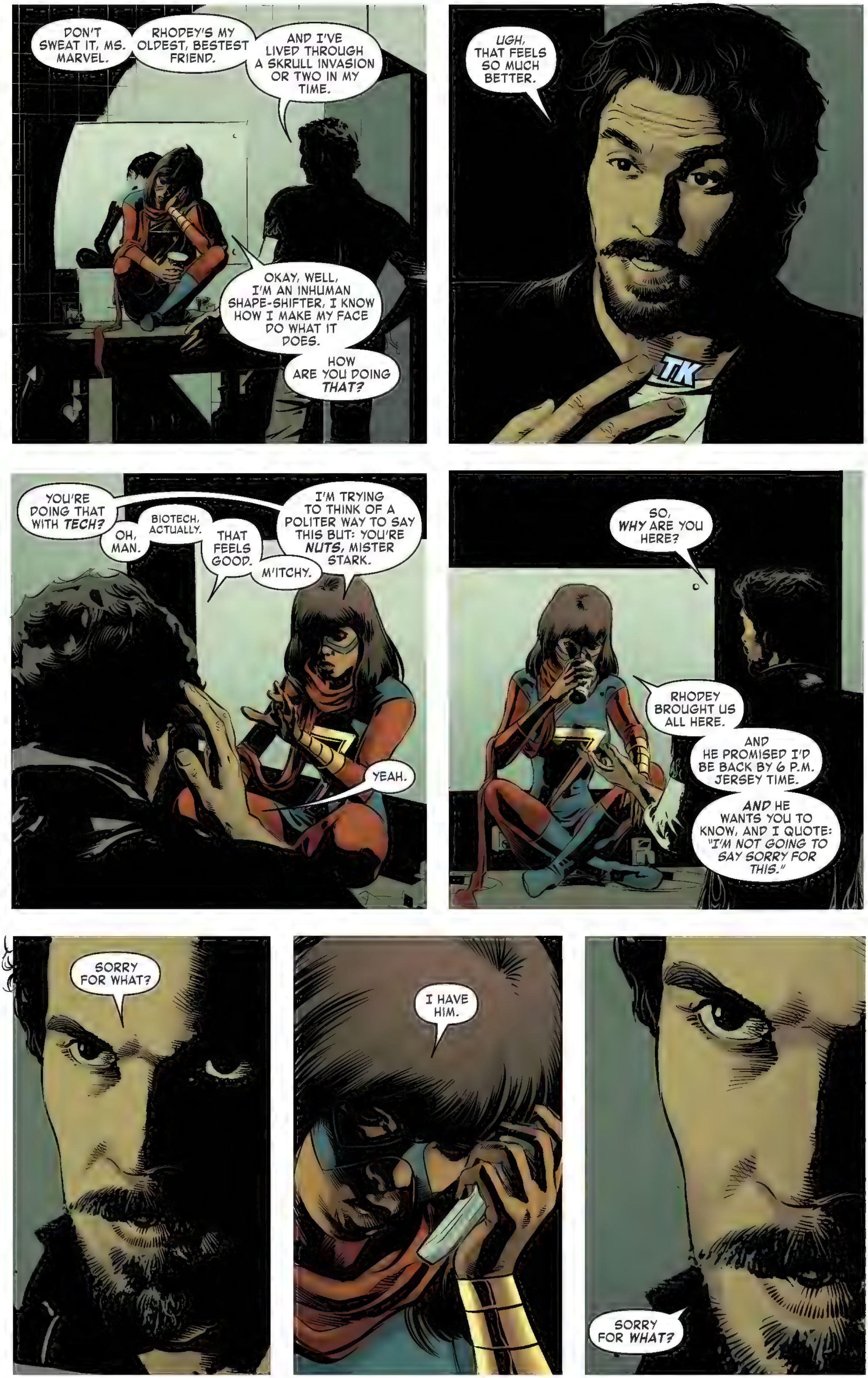

KUMAMOTO NORTH POLICE STATION, KUMAMOTO PREFECTURE.
HE IS HERE?
THE AMERICAN WAR MACHINE IS BACK.
COLONEL JAMES RHODES.
HE MUST KNOW SOMETHING.


HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE, TOMOE.
I'M SORRY.
THE LADY THOR HAS BEEN SPOTTED.
WHERE?
IN DOWNTOWN OSAKA.
THOR AND WAR MACHINE ARE BOTH HERE?
SEE, ZHANG, IT IS HAPPENING.
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR STARK.
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR US. IN RETALIATION FOR STARK.
THIS-- THESE ARE THE SAME MISTAKES THAT THE HAND AND HYDRA AND SO MANY OTHERS HAVE MADE OVER AND OVER.
SLOPPY MISTAKES THAT BRING THESE AMERICAN AVENGERS RIGHT TO OUR DOORSTEP.
WE WERE PAINFULLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN HUNTING DOWN JAMES RHODES BEFORE HE ESCAPED OUR COUNTRY.
WE COULDN'T GET NEAR THAT GALLIVANTING SPIDER-MAN.
AND NOW THE COMMUNITY OF AVENGERS KNOWS OF US. THEY KNOW WE ARE HERE.
THEY KNOW.
WE LOST OUR MOST VALUED ASSET... ANONYMITY.
ALL OF THIS BECAUSE OF THAT DAMNED MADAME MASQUE.
WHAT NOW, TOMOE?

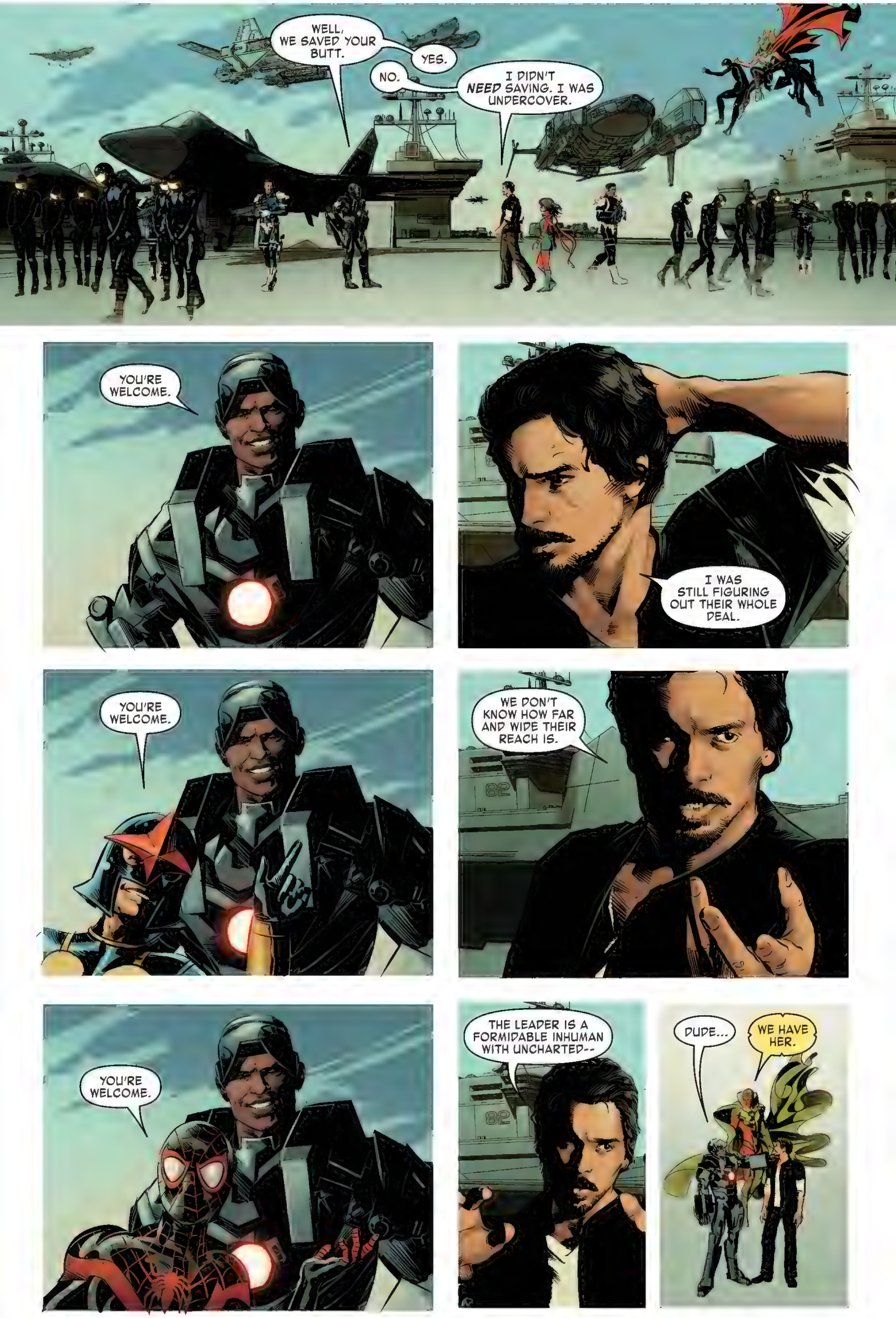

I CAN HAVE THE BIOHACK NINJAS POWER DOWN AND DROP OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL THIS ALL BLOWS OVER.
I THINK RIGHT NOW SURVIVAL TRUMPS EGO.
AND WHEN WORD GETS OUT THAT WE HID FROM THE AMERICAN HEROES?
WHERE IS OUR NEW RECRUIT?
WHERE IS OUR EX-S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT, FRANCO?
HAVE WE HEARD FROM HIM?
NOT SINCE YOU SENT HIM TO TRACK DOWN JAMES RHODES FOR US.
WELL... THAT IS HARDLY NECESSARY NOW.
YOU CAN TAKE HIM, YOU KNOW.
WHO?
THE AMERICAN *WAR MACHINE.*
MAYBE. BUT THOR...
...IS ANOTHER SITUATION ENTIRELY.
ENTIRELY.
WHAT SAY YOU, TOMOE?
LET'S SURPRISE THEM BEFORE THEY SURPRISE US.

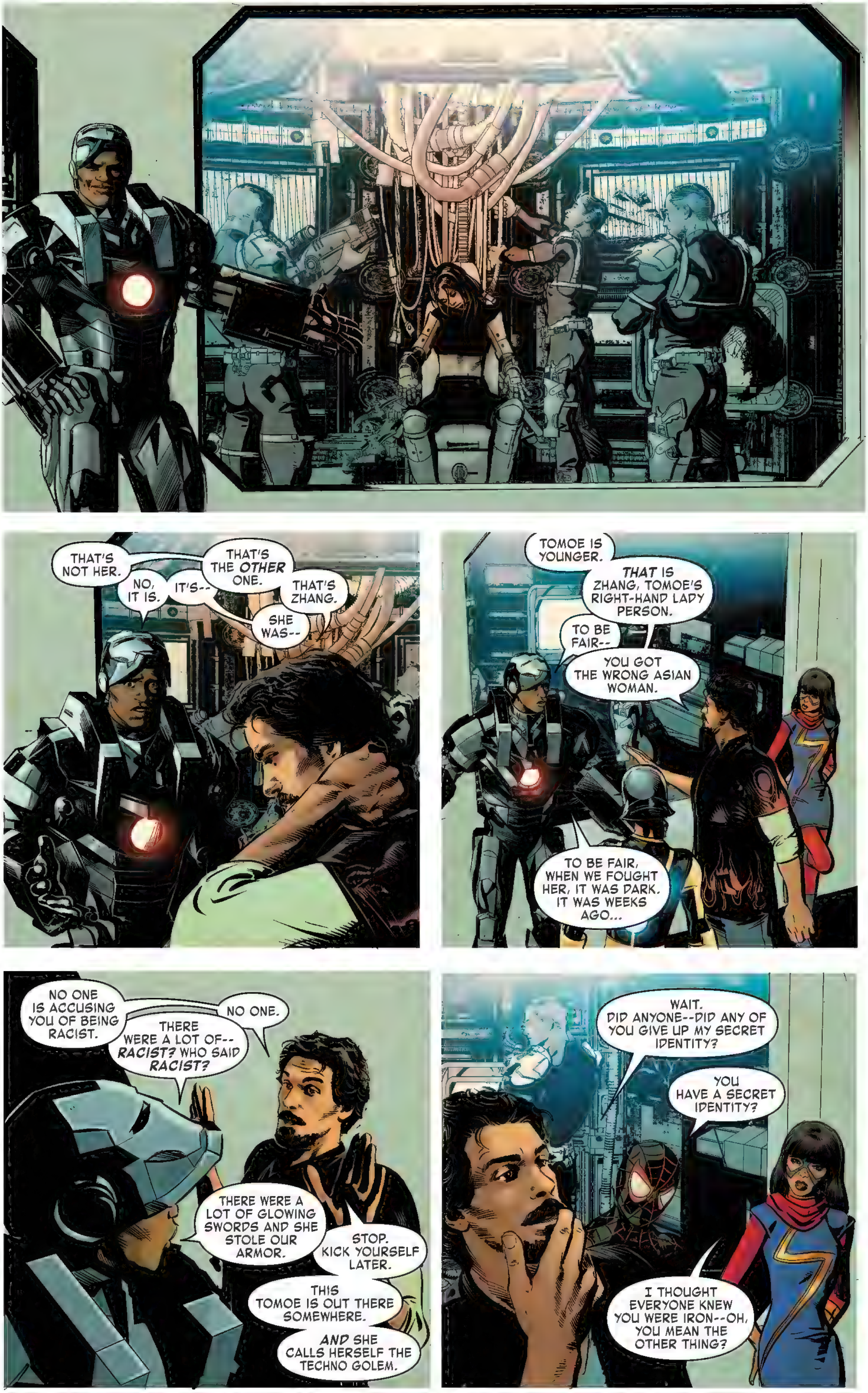

DAMN IT!
WORLD COFFEE
ARABIYA
1951
アラビヤ
coffee
CLACK
HEY, DID YOU TRY THE COFFEE?
IT'S INSANE.
RHODEY?
WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?

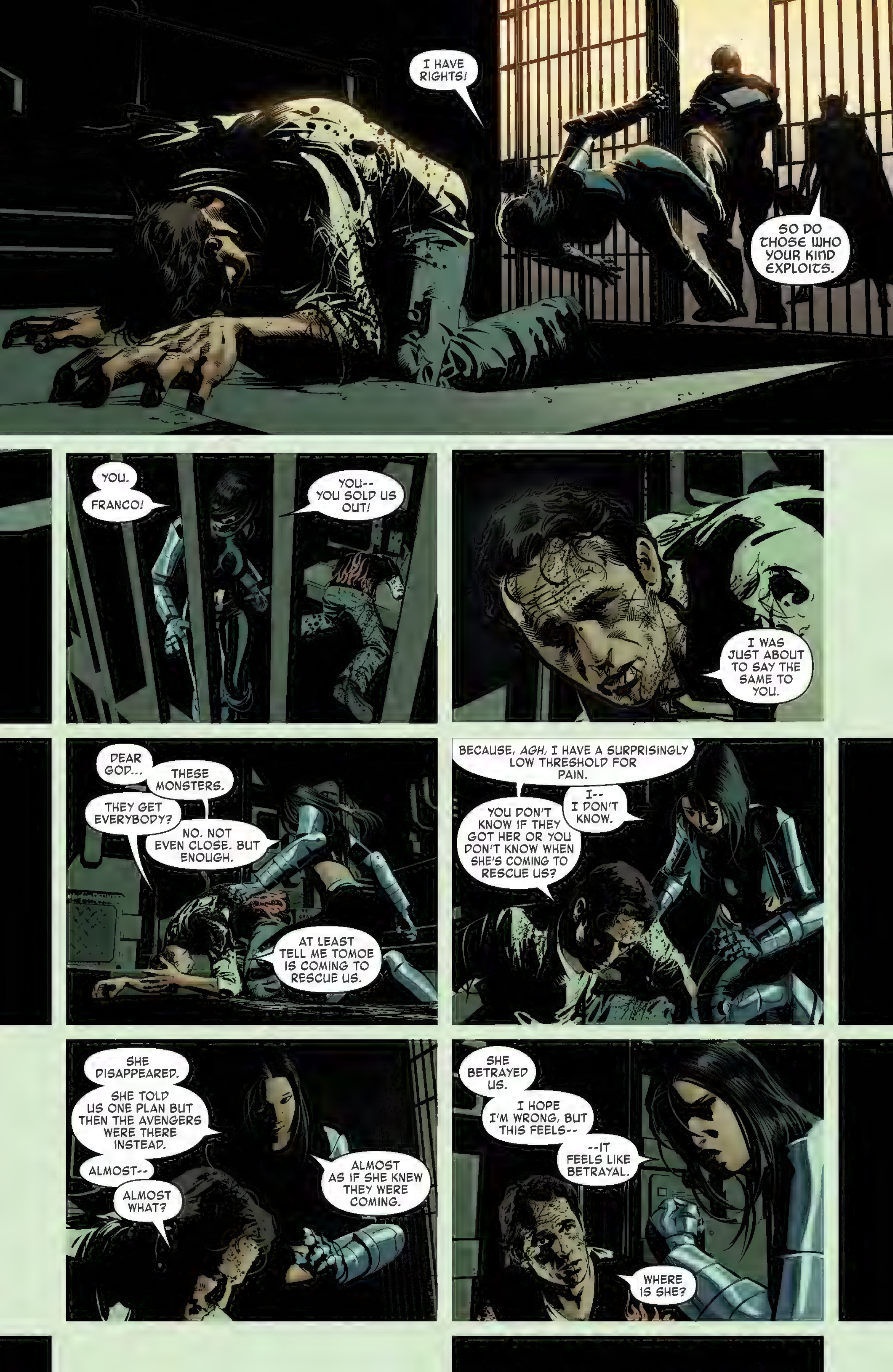

I COME HERE EVERY DAY.
LOOKING FOR YOU.
IT'S A RESCUE.
I DON'T NEED RESCUING.
I'M UNDERCOVER.
THEN WHY DID YOU MEET ME HERE AT THE PLACE WE SET AS OUR IN-CASE-OF-EMERGENCY MEET PLACE--
YOU BROUGHT THE AVENGERS?
JUST SOME OF THEM.
UGH!
I CHECKED THE VENTS.
WE'RE SAFE.
YOU CAN DROP THE MASK.
I WILL IF YOU DO.
NUTS!
I THOUGHT I HAD IT.
YOU WERE CLOSE.
I TRIED REALLY HARD.
DROP IT.

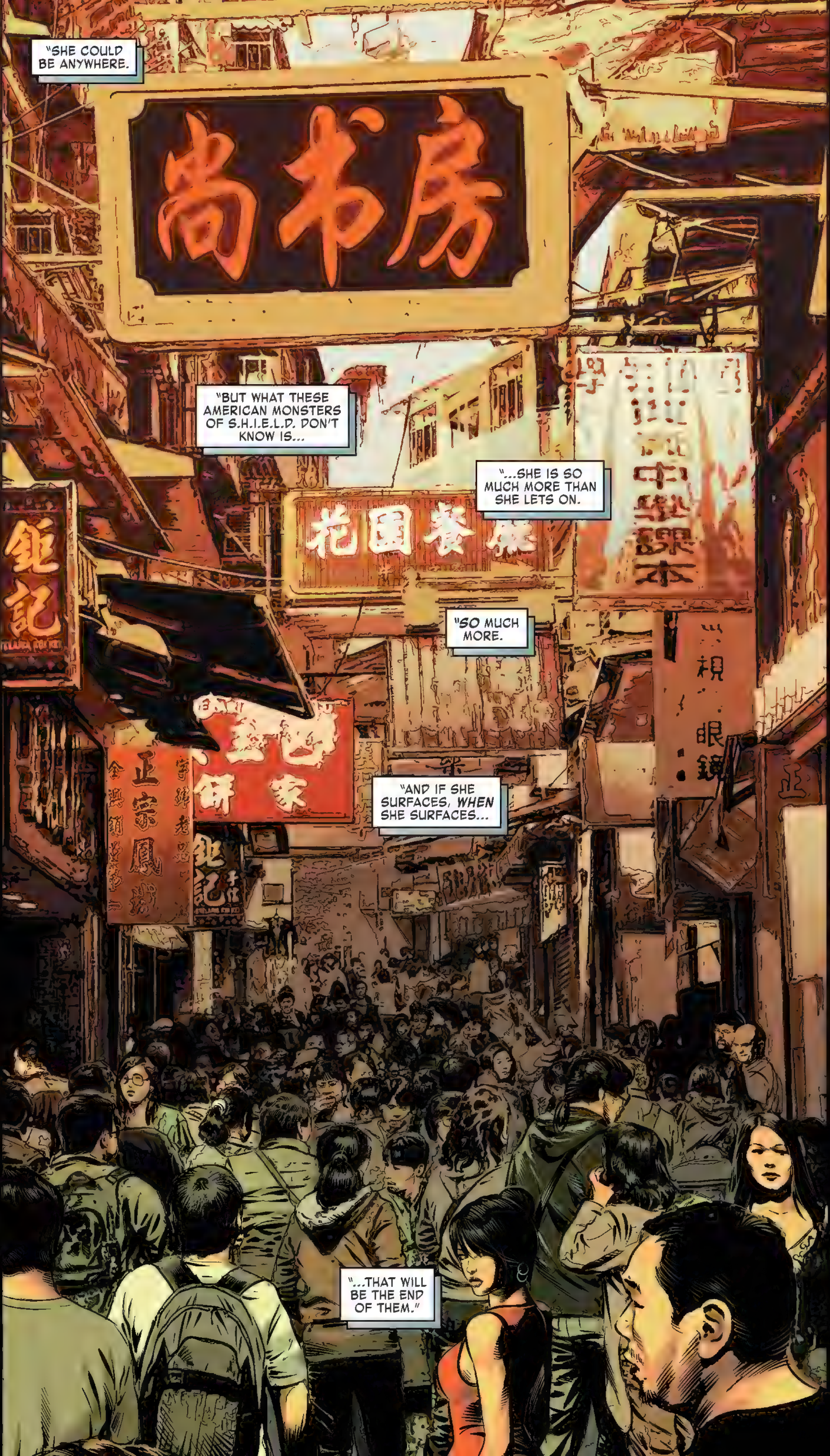

DON'T SWEAT IT, MS. MARVEL.
RHODEY'S MY OLDEST, BESTEST FRIEND.
AND I'VE LIVED THROUGH A SKRULL INVASION OR TWO IN MY TIME.
OKAY, WELL, I'M AN INHUMAN SHAPE-SHIFTER, I KNOW HOW I MAKE MY FACE DO WHAT IT DOES.
HOW ARE YOU DOING *THAT?*
UGH, THAT FEELS SO MUCH BETTER.
TK
YOU'RE DOING THAT WITH *TECH?*
BIOTECH, ACTUALLY.
OH, MAN.
THAT FEELS GOOD.
M'ITCHY.
I'M TRYING TO THINK OF A POLITER WAY TO SAY THIS BUT: YOU'RE *NUTS,* MISTER STARK.
YEAH.
SO, *WHY* ARE YOU HERE?
RHODEY BROUGHT US ALL HERE.
AND HE PROMISED I'D BE BACK BY 6 P.M. JERSEY TIME.
AND HE WANTS YOU TO KNOW, AND I QUOTE: *"I'M NOT GOING TO SAY SORRY FOR THIS."*
SORRY FOR WHAT?
I HAVE HIM.
SORRY FOR *WHAT?*

"WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?"


WELL, WE SAVED YOUR BUTT.
YES.
NO.
I DIDN'T *NEED* SAVING. I WAS UNDERCOVER.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
I WAS STILL FIGURING OUT THEIR WHOLE DEAL.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WE DON'T KNOW HOW FAR AND WIDE THEIR REACH IS.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
THE LEADER IS A FORMIDABLE INHUMAN WITH UNCHARTED--
DUDE...
WE HAVE HER.


THAT'S NOT HER.
THAT'S THE *OTHER* ONE.
NO, IT IS.
IT'S--
SHE WAS--
THAT'S ZHANG.
TOMOE IS YOUNGER.
THAT IS ZHANG, TOMOE'S RIGHT-HAND LADY PERSON.
TO BE FAIR--
YOU GOT THE WRONG ASIAN WOMAN.
TO BE FAIR, WHEN WE FOUGHT HER, IT WAS DARK. IT WAS WEEKS AGO...
NO ONE IS ACCUSING YOU OF BEING RACIST.
NO ONE.
THERE WERE A LOT OF-- ***RACIST?*** WHO SAID ***RACIST?***
THERE WERE A LOT OF GLOWING SWORDS AND SHE STOLE OUR ARMOR.
STOP. KICK YOURSELF LATER.
THIS TOMOE IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.
AND SHE CALLS HERSELF THE TECHNO GOLEM.
WAIT. DID ANYONE--DID ANY OF YOU GIVE UP MY SECRET IDENTITY?
YOU HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY?
I THOUGHT EVERYONE KNEW YOU WERE IRON--OH, YOU MEAN THE OTHER THING?


I HAVE RIGHTS!
SO DO THOSE WHO YOUR KIND EXPLOITS.
YOU.
FRANCO!
YOU-- YOU SOLD US OUT!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME TO YOU.
DEAR GOD...
THESE MONSTERS.
THEY GET EVERYBODY?
NO. NOT EVEN CLOSE. BUT ENOUGH.
AT LEAST TELL ME TOMOE IS COMING TO RESCUE US.
BECAUSE, *AGH,* I HAVE A SURPRISINGLY LOW THRESHOLD FOR PAIN.
YOU DON'T KNOW IF THEY GOT HER OR YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN SHE'S COMING TO RESCUE US?
I-- I DON'T KNOW.
SHE DISAPPEARED.
SHE TOLD US ONE PLAN BUT THEN THE AVENGERS WERE THERE INSTEAD.
ALMOST--
ALMOST WHAT?
ALMOST AS IF SHE KNEW THEY WERE COMING.
SHE BETRAYED US.
I HOPE I'M WRONG, BUT THIS FEELS--
--IT FEELS LIKE BETRAYAL.
WHERE IS SHE?


"SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE.
尚书房
"BUT WHAT THESE AMERICAN MONSTERS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. DON'T KNOW IS...
"...SHE IS SO MUCH MORE THAN SHE LETS ON.
花园餐
鉅記
"SO MUCH MORE.
"AND IF SHE SURFACES, WHEN SHE SURFACES...
"...THAT WILL BE THE END OF THEM."

SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

Welcome back, Shell-Heads! Assistant Editor Alanna Smith here to answer all your burning questions about ninjas, iron suits and cool redheads. But a quick PSA first: Our next issue is the first of our CIVIL WAR II tie-ins, so if you haven't followed Tony's adventures into the pages of CIVIL WAR II, now's a good time to start! David Marquez and Justin Ponsor, who did the art on the first five issues of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN, are drawing the HECK out of it. Issues #0, #1 and #2 are in stores now--check them out!

Dear IRON MAN Team,

I am writing to tell you that I love your new books INVINCIBLE IRON MAN and INTERNATIONAL IRON MAN. I don't know where to start to tell you what I like about the series--from the armor, which is the best I've ever seen, to the awesome and lively art which sometimes makes me think Iron Man may be flying out of these pages. I especially love the writing of the story so far and the end of each issue makes you look forward to reading the next one. I love the witty banter of Tony Stark. I've actually read a lot of the older comics as well and I like how Tony and the Iron Man armor have evolved over the ages. The cover for INTERNATIONAL IRON MAN #1 kind of looks like James Bond. I've also liked the lead up to CIVIL WAR II which I'm very excited for. Any chance will we see any of Shell-Head's old villains like Unicorn? Keep up the awesome work, guys!

Yours respectfully,
Ari Maharajh

No plans for Unicorn at the moment, Ari, but you never know! I actually think at one point he was going to show up as one of the super villain prisoners in Pleasant Hill, but I'm not sure he made the final cut.

And I'm glad you're liking INTERNATIONAL IRON MAN as well! We're having a lot of fun with that book!

Stark's undercover mission as Mr. Franco to infiltrate the biohack ninjas in INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #10 was great and we learned a lot more about the biohack ninjas. This issue juggled a lot of plot threads. I particularly liked how MJ's arc is leading the character towards a much stronger role in this series. Mike Deodato and Frank Martin's fun cover for INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #10 had me expecting something more frivolous--however, the emotional impact of Mary Jane's scenes in this issue are handled perfectly. Brian Michael Bendis and Mike Deodato are a fantastic team on this book. Thank you for making INVINCIBLE IRON MAN such an awesome series!

Yours,
Paul Bowler

Thanks, Paul, glad you're digging it! But the cover for #10 was actually the wonderful Kate Niemczyk, the main artist on the MOCKINGBIRD solo series! She draws a lovely MJ, doesn't she? (Also, that's the happiest MJ's ever looked to be working for Tony Stark, haha!)

Hey, guys, I just wanted to write to you that I am loving INVINCIBLE IRON MAN! I just read #1-7 (but the friend who I borrowed them from hasn't finished #8-10 so I can't read them yet ;-;) and I have to say I am so excited to read more! I've not read many comic books before last month when I started working at a local comic shop so I could afford to buy them! Iron Man has always been a favorite of mine (but #teamcap all the way) and I've been interested to see how he works in the comics vs. the movies, and it works so well. But anyway, I know I've rambled long enough now so I'll let you get into the other emails. Thanks for doing such a good job and I can't wait to read more about Iron Man and MJ!

Thanks for everything!

True Believer Adric Pellett

Tell your friend to read faster, Adric!

I'd love to be #teamcap as well, but it's actually really hard to choose when you're editing both the Iron Man books and the Cap books--like choosing which kid is your favorite when they're both throwing blocks at each other, you know? The struggle is real.

In issue #8 of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN, the ninjas express frustration with beating James Rhodes as he is "a Navy SEAL Avenger..."

However, James Rhodes was a lieutenant in the U.S. Marines when he was first introduced in issue #144 of vol. 1. I don't think you can be in the Marines and be a SEAL. I think you have to join the Navy.

Thank you,
Mitch Taylor

You get to claim the first No-Prize of this letters page, Mitch! You're completely right--it's a mistake we didn't manage to catch (but we DID catch it in other places later, so we're paying more attention to it now)!

Loving the book so far. Bendis is a perfect fit for this character. Now, when are we going to get the epic Iron Man/Jubilee team-up fans (or maybe just this fan) have been demanding for years?

Chip Snyder

The team-up will just be Jubilee biting Tony to make Tony a vampire and we'll never mention it again, but in every appearance henceforth he'll only drink from a tasteful flask of blood in scenes where other people are eating.

You wanna know what I like best about INVINCIBLE IRON MAN? I mean, sure, the writing and the artwork, the witty banter and the pretty pictures, the explosions, Mary Jane Watson, the drama, Mary Jane Watson, the humor, Mary Jane Watson, the main characters, and the guest stars (like Mary Jane Watson). All good, and all a given, of course.

But the icing, for me, is the title of the letters column: "Sock it to Shell-Head!" takes me back to summers spent in Missouri as a kid in the late '60s, going to Ramey's Grocery Store in Aurora to buy 12-cent comic books (and 25-cent giants) and thrilling to the adventures of my four-color friends. The sense of camaraderie implied in Marvel Comics' letters columns (and in Stan Lee's Soapbox) was endlessly inviting and irresistible to this nine-year-old True Believer.

Nowadays, with each reboot and revamp, I sometimes feel that the comics industry has little use for middle-aged fans. But I'm still finding a ton of books that don't make me feel that way, and INVINCIBLE IRON MAN is near the top of that list. Listen: I've been with Shell-Head since The Avengers faced Count Nefaria for the first time, and I don't mind at all that he sounds like Robert Downey, Jr.--he's still my Iron Man, so sock it to me.

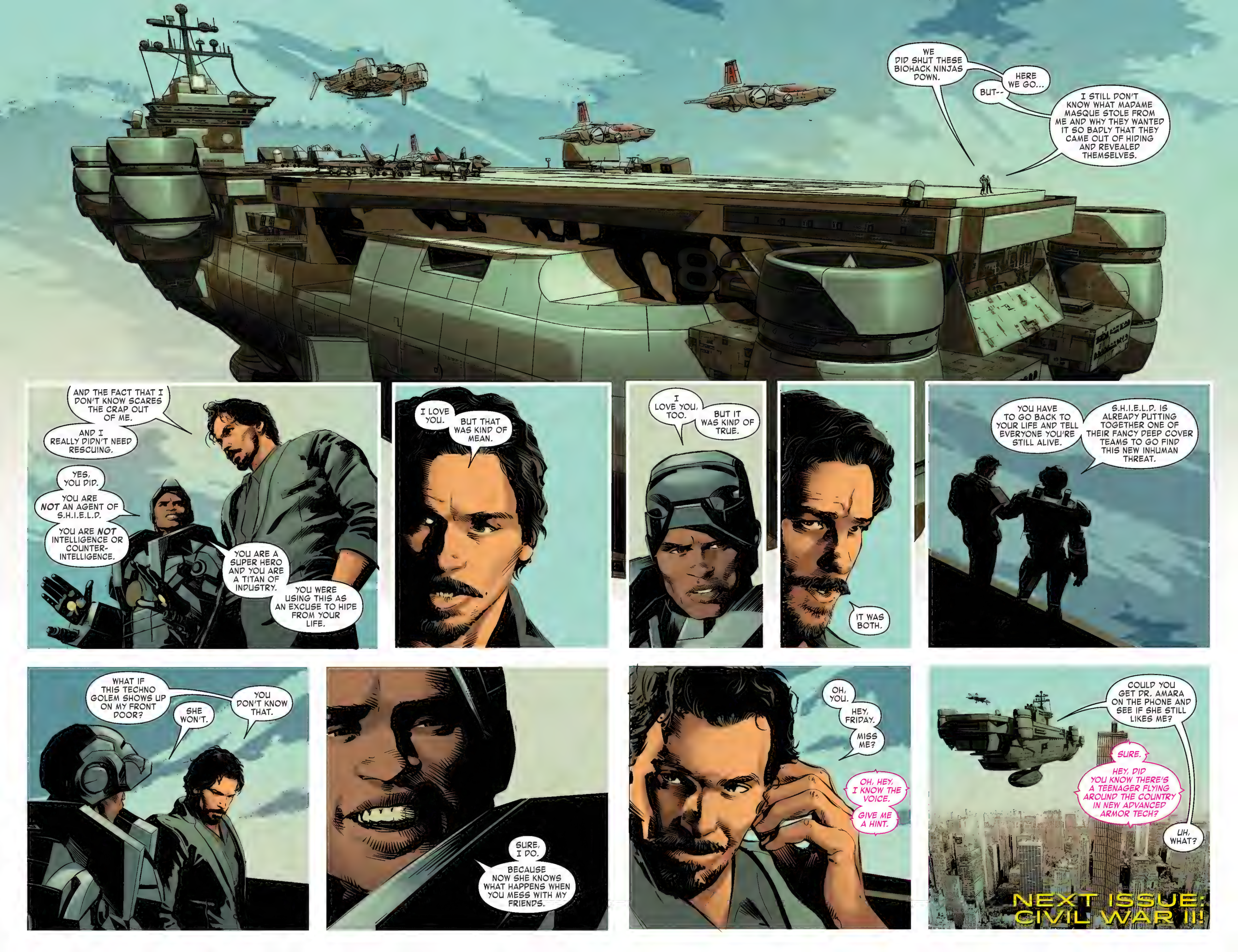
Cheers,
Carl Cafarelli, R.F.O. (and then some!)

That's awesome to hear, Carl! Honestly, as a fan whose parents were kids in the sixties, it's really cool for me to hear from fans like you who've been with the character for so long. But even though I answer these letters, Tom gets all the credit for the letters page title--he couldn't WAIT to bring it back.

And for those of you who have not yet socked it to Shell-Head, send us your letters! No, but seriously, if we aren't constantly praised we melt into puddles of gelatin. It is a legitimate health concern.

Come back next month for CIVIL WAR II!

-The Invincible Alanna Smith


WE DID SHUT THESE BIOHACK NINJAS DOWN.
HERE WE GO...
BUT--
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT MADAME MASQUE STOLE FROM ME AND WHY THEY WANTED IT SO BADLY THAT THEY CAME OUT OF HIDING AND REVEALED THEMSELVES.
AND THE FACT THAT I DON'T KNOW SCARES THE CRAP OUT OF ME.
AND I REALLY DIDN'T NEED RESCUING.
YES, YOU DID.
YOU ARE ***NOT*** AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.
YOU ARE ***NOT*** INTELLIGENCE OR COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE.
YOU ARE A SUPER HERO AND YOU ARE A TITAN OF INDUSTRY.
YOU WERE USING THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO HIDE FROM YOUR LIFE.
I LOVE YOU.
BUT THAT WAS KIND OF MEAN.
I LOVE YOU, TOO.
BUT IT WAS KIND OF TRUE.
IT WAS BOTH.
YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO YOUR LIFE AND TELL EVERYONE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
S.H.I.E.L.D. IS ALREADY PUTTING TOGETHER ONE OF THEIR FANCY DEEP COVER TEAMS TO GO FIND THIS NEW INHUMAN THREAT.
WHAT IF THIS TECHNO GOLEM SHOWS UP ON MY FRONT DOOR?
SHE WON'T.
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.
SURE, I DO.
BECAUSE NOW SHE KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MESS WITH MY FRIENDS.
OH, YOU.
HEY, FRIDAY.
MISS ME?
OH, HEY, I KNOW THE VOICE.
GIVE ME A HINT.
COULD YOU GET DR. AMARA ON THE PHONE AND SEE IF SHE STILL LIKES ME?
SURE.
HEY, DID YOU KNOW THERE'S A TEENAGER FLYING AROUND THE COUNTRY IN NEW ADVANCED ARMOR TECH?
UH, WHAT?
NEXT ISSUE: CIVIL WAR II!

NEXT ISSUE:

CIVIL WAR II BEGINS!

#6 STORY THUS FAR VARIANT BY **JULIAN TOTINO TEDESCO**

#6 VARIANT BY **MICHAEL CHO**

IS MINE DONE CHARGING YET?

#6 VARIANT BY **SKOTTIE YOUNG**

#6 CLASSIC VARIANT BY **NEAL ADAMS & EDGAR DELGADO**

FACE IT, TIGER, I'M THE BOSS.
david lopez

#7 WOMEN OF POWER VARIANT BY DAVID LOPEZ

#10 REENACTMENT VARIANT BY **TOM RANEY & JORDAN BOYD**

Mike Deodato Jr.

"One of the strongest in Marvel's arsenal."
– BlackNerdProblems.com

SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN
THE HOUSE OF STARK!

To root out the answers, Tony will have to delve into the nooks and crannies of his international organization. But what will he find? Meanwhile, as events begin to build that will rock theMarvel Universe once again, Iron Man teams up with War Machine to face a brand-new threat – with a little help from Spider-Man! Tony and Rhodey are best pals on and off the battlefield, but their friendship will be tested beyond anything they've ever known as new power players reveal themselves in a bloody and dangerous fashion. Can anything Iron Man and War Machine do prevent an all-new Civil War? Or will fresh conflict pit Tony against some of his nearest and dearest?

COLLECTING *INVINCIBLE IRON MAN (2015) #6-11* –
BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS, MIKE DEODATO AND FRANK MARTIN.

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